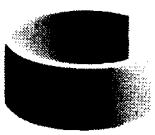

CINERGI

JUDGE DREDD

REVISED 10/4/93

***The first 74 pages of the following script incorporate Danny Cannon's revisions. Pages 73-113 are new pages on which Danny Cannon worked and read with William Wisher.

EXT. WASTELAND - SUNSET

Brown dust clouds sweep over parched low hills, tinting the sky the color of sawdust. It looks like the beginning of time. Or the end. Nothing grows here. Nothing could. This is a dead place. This is the edge of the CURSED EARTH.

We pull back to see a silloetted figure, helmeted with a flowing dust coat flapping in the wind. He turns, we see a large weapon in his hand , he signals behind.as...

In front of him a transporter barge, the size of a large house, rises slowley training it's beaming lights into camera.

PAN WITH THE BARGE as it roars to a halt before an ENORMOUS WALL that stretches high above us.A huge GATE is set into it. Along the wall other watchmen guards scan the dessert, armed and menacing. With a loud RUMBLE, the gate begins to rise, revealing a lockout chamber beyond. The barge carefully squeezes inside.

INT. LOCK - DAY

AS the barge floats through it is spayed down by hi-powered jets. brown dirt drips away to show eroding metal.

The gate closes behind the barge. The huge fuel ship fills the lock, its nose almost touching the next gate at the far end. A metal grid closes it in from above. It hovers there, waiting. CAMERA guided AUTOCANNONS are mounted on the walls. Their cyclopean eyes sweep over the barge, hunting.

BORDER JUDGES, armed to the teeth and wearing ENVIRONMENT SUITS, swarm beneath the barge, looking up into the recesses of its belly, prodding the dark places with STUN RODS. More Judges patrol the grid above, peering down into the lock, weapons at the ready. One of the guards under the barge speaks into a microphone inside his helmet.

1ST BORDER JUDGE
She's clean. Let 'em ou...

Before he can finish from nowhere a gun attatched to an oily, dusty hand is in his face. He goes to shout, BOOM! Lowering themselves like aliens from the guts of the barge, the ugliest cursed earth refugees drop to the floor and make a run for the wall.Both the judges above and the guns on the wall swith to kill frenzy.

Four men, who may look mean but also very scared, drop from the ship and one after another three of them drop to the floor with holes in them the size of melons. The last

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

actually gets to the wall and starts to climb to the grid but immediatly above him a gun clicks and a Judge drops him like game.

THE BODY LANDS WITH A THUD NEAR THE FRONT OF THE BARGE. AN EXIT DOOR opens in the belly beneath the nose. Hydraulic servos push a staircase out. Men in prison jumpsuits, carrying their belongings in duffel bags, descend and line up at the bottom. A Border Judge keeps a close eye on them. Barks an order.

BORDER JUDGE
Get your parole papers ready.

The men each hold out a pink slip. The Border Judge checks them as he goes down the line. More parolees are backed up the staircase, waiting their turn.

THE INTERIOR GATE, begins to rise. An ascending curtain of BRIGHT LIGHT washes over the lock as the parolees file out.

ON THE STAIRCASE. The last parolee steps to the Border Judge. Herman Ferguson, FERGIE. He has the shifty demeanor of a low rent criminal. But obviously not the brains to stay ahead of the law. He flashes his papers at the Judge with much attitude.

FERGIE
Thanks. It's been a thrill.

Fergie starts to move off. Notices one of the other Judges open a MANUAL ACCESS PANEL on the wall. Punch in a NUMBER CODE. Suddenly a section of the floor OPENS. The Judges begin to hose the bodies and blood into it. The Judge at the panel catches Fergie watching.

3RD BORDER JUDGE
Hey, you! Get moving.

Fergie quickly turns and hurries out the gate. He moves through the city wall onto a brige linking to the street but stops in his tracks as he looks up in awe to see...

A MAGNIFICENT CITY. Massive. On a scale never seen on earth. Huge tower BLOCKS rise hundreds of stories into the air. So high that fueling barges are needed to service them from the top. A title card appears...

MEGA CITY ONE :2539

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CONTINUED:

WITH THE BARGE as it moves through the urban maze, a thousand feet above the ground. Other barges drift past us, floating between the towers like metal clouds. Each Block has a name emblazoned on it and we catch glimpses of them as we float past. Dan Quayle. Madonna. The Orb. Bart Simpson. A world living on the pop culture of the past.

We make a turn and move into another neighborhood. The buildings don't gleam here. They rust. This is Mega City's Bronx. We're heading down a long narrow canyon of tenements. Heading for one at the end. We keep moving toward it until the words CLINT EASTWOOD fill FRAME.

CUT TO

INT. CLINT EASTWOOD BLOCK - DAY

A long shabby corridor. Paint peels on the walls. A tough and nasty place. An elevator door creaks open. Fergie steps out. Takes an unhappy looks around. Mutters under his breath

FERGIE
A year in Iso Cube ain't bad enough. Oh, *no*. They gotta parole me back to the shit end of the city.

Fergie hefts his duffel bag and starts down the hall, checking the door numbers against the address on his parole papers, looking for a match up, continuing to mutter to himself.

UP AHEAD THERE ARE SOME SCUFFLING AND MUTED SLAMMING NOISES.Maybe they're typical for this neibourhood? But then two guys cut across the hall to an opposite appartment with heavy bags. Then almost too quick to register another two Further away. Fergie's getting jumpy. A woman carrying a young girl and dragging a slightly older boy cut across.Fergie makes his way cautiously to the door where the guys went.He moves closer and puts his head around the door to take a look.

CUT TO

EXT. EASTWOOD BLOCK - BALCONY - DAY

Inside the furnature is stacked as a barracade against the long window and balcony and several men load heavy duty weaponry in preperation. One swings round to spot Fergie.

THATCHEA

Who the hell are you?

FERGIE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Me? I...

BOSCO

Maybe he's a Jagger spy? You a Jagger creep?

FERGIE

No, I'm your new neighbour Fergie Letz. I just popped the iso cubes in Tex City, and by the look of this I'm gonna miss em'.

THATCHEA

Well neighbour grab a fire-arm and get busy

FERGIE is thrown a cannon and stares down in fear. Across the street the Jagger block can be seen organising themslves windos are being kicked out for twelve stories.

BOSCO

What's wrong Neighbour?

FERGIE

Well it's just this parole thing told me specificly to avoid Murder...

BOSCO

(Pointing his gun at Him) Your either a patriotic Eastwood or a dead Jagger, which is it?

FERGIE

Make my day.

BOSCO,THATCHE and a few of the Eastwood's stand at that and in a madness open fire

BOSCO

BLOCK WAR!!!

FERGIE dives for cover as BULLETS chew into the wall above him. He crashes into a couple of Eastwood residents, TRACHEA and BOSCO. Both wield evil-looking assault rifles. Fergie shouts above the din, terrified.

TRACHEA

Block War!

CONTINUED:

BOSCO
Jagger eradication! Scum removal! Kill! Kill! Kill!

Fergie looks to where Bosco is pointing. To MICK JAGGER BLOCK across the street. He sees throngs of people gathered on the balconies there, blasting away at him. Fergie glances over the balcony. Up. Down. Everyone above and below is doing the same thing. Fergie glances at the faces of his companions. They're totally over the edge.

CUT TO

EXT. EASTWOOD AND JAGGER BLOCK - DAY

GUNFIRE crashes from both buildings. Every kind of weapon from antique AK-47's to future-tech battle rifles. Glass and concrete explodes in a shower of debris, raining down on the street below.

EXT. STREET LEVEL - DAY

CLOSE ON TWO FIGURES in armored uniforms, JUDGES. They roar up to the blocks on futuristic motorcycles, LAWMASTERS, as chunks of concrete SLAM onto the street in front of them.

THE FIRST JUDGE glances at the other. Only the eyes and chin are visible through the Judge's helmet. But we can see that it's a woman. Her uniform is an intimidating black with green and gold trim. Her badge reads HERSHEY. She shouts a command to her partner, BRISCO, a young man in a slightly different uniform that marks him as a ROOKIE.

HERSHEY
Take cover!

The two Lawmasters race back to the end of the block as a few shots claw at the pavement behind them. Hershey calls in as she and her partner draw their weapons, serious looking next century pistols, LAWGIVERS. Her voice is steady and commanding.

HERSHEY
This is Hershey. We've got a block war at Jagger and Eastwood! Fully engulfed. Multiple perps involved. Brisco and I are under fire. Request backup. We'll hold on scene. Out.

Brisco frowns at her, impatient.

BRISCO
Why are we holding? Lets take em.

CONTINUED:

HERSHEY
My job is to keep you alive, Rookie.

BRISCO
You've been baby sitting me all morning, Judge. We ran Block Sims at the Academy. I'm up for this. You can go in behind me if you're scared.

He starts to rise. Hershey wheels on him. Yanks him back down.

HERSHEY
I don't care what you think you learned at the Academy, young rookie. You have exactly forty-five minutes of street experience. You *will* stand down and follow my instructions.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON a stern, weathered face. Its a face that belongs on Mount Rushmore. Handsome. Rugged. Aged by a lifetime of experience. But with eyes still bright and piercing. A face to be reckoned with. The face of an icon. The face of CHIEF JUDGE FARGO.

WIDER. Fargo sits at the center of a DAIS in the main chamber of the ruling COUNCIL OF JUDGES. Behind them is an enormous map of North America. It is almost entirely black, wiped of features. Across the center of what was once the United States are the words: CURSED EARTH. Only a few lights stand out on all of the continent. One where New York City had been. Identified as MEGA CITY ONE. One on the west Coast, MEGA CITY TWO. A third, TEXAS CITY. And about where the Rockies used to be, the ASPEN PENAL COLONY.

FOUR OTHER JUDGES sit on either side of Fargo, all identified by the names on their badges, and their medallions of office. JUDGE SILVER, a black man in his sixties. MCGRUDER, female, severe looking, in her fifties. ECHS, wearing glasses, balding. And ESPISITO, stern and gray.

JUDGE GRIFFIN stands before them, addressing the bench. His medallion reads DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL SECURITY.

GRIFFIN
We all respect the years of service you have given Mega City, Judge Fargo. The many... many years.

Fargo just stares at him.

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN
And we are all aware of what we owe you. *And* your father. He forged Mega City, and the Judge System, from the ashes of a dying world. A debt beyond estimation. You've continued to guide us in the same *generous* tradition.

FARGO
Griffin, that is the finest eulogy I've heard in some time. But unless I died recently, you're getting ahead of yourself. Now,we have an emergency to deal with, so...

Behind Griffin, at the other end of the room is a giant wall screen, depicting the block war in progress.

GRIFFIN
Precisely my point. The city is in chaos... again.Sixty five million people,maximum overcrowding with 40% unemployment and an annual 90% rise in violent crime.

FARGO
I don't need the Director of Security to tell me the statistics, If you stopped fighting me and started doing your job properly we might be able to avoid some of these--

GRIFFIN
I would have you let me do my job. Your quaint insistence on the outdated concept of individual rights has become... unsupportable. Social order is disintegrating.

Griffin glances at the other council members. They all look pretty uncomfortable. He continues.

FARGO
You're beginning to sound like Judge Rico. Are you suggesting we start forming death squads? We executed him for that.

Griffin bristles. Judge Echs speaks up.

ECHS
Now Judge Fargo, Griffin isn't suggesting anything of the kind.

CONTINUED:

SILVER
And to be fair, the Rico incident happened on your watch.

FARGO
Yes. And Judge Dredd arrested him and sent him to Aspen... on my watch. What's your point?

Silver looks to Griffin, unwilling to press Fargo. Griffin speaks up.

GRIFFIN
The point is that Mega City has moved beyond you. There is a cancer growing out there. One of chaos and disorder. If we don't cut it out, Mega City will die.

Griffin gestures to the live shot of the block war on the wall.

FARGO
He'll, Griffin, you shove a hundred million people onto a rock the size of this one and some are bound to go *futsie* from time to time. The city's not dying, it's growing. And growth is painful.

Griffin steps closer to the bench, his voice rising.

GRIFFIN
It wouldn't be if you had adopted my request to disarm the Citidefs.

FARGO
People have rights. You start taking them away you *will* see chaos.

GRIFFIN
Then sterner measures will be required. I have submitted a whole series of preemptive crime reforms--

Fargo's voice heats up as well.

FARGO
Life's hard enough for them as it is. We get any sterner and we won't be able to control a single citizen!

Griffin looks to the others for support. Judge McGruder speaks up.

CONTINUED:

MCGRUDER
What Judge Griffin is trying to say is...

FARGO
I know what he's trying to say. I'm too old and soft for the chair I'm sitting in. It's about time I gave it up. Is that what the rest of you want?

No one says anything. They all look a little guilty.

SILVER
Of course... we're reluctant to *forcibly remove* you from the Council. We all have the highest respect for you...

FARGO
I see.

Fargo bestows his gaze on the lot of them. This is it then. They want him out. He's angry and disappointed. His gaze moves to Griffin, who can barely hide the triumph in his eyes. Fargo rises.

FARGO
You'll have my decision in the morning.

With that, Fargo moves out the door.

GRIFFIN steps up to his chair. The others watch him with a mixture of self-recrimination and relief that its over. He smiles at the faces around him.

MCGRUDER
I believe your first order of business is the block war.

Griffin is staring at the Chief's chair.

GRIFFIN
We'll make an example of them. Send in Judge Dredd.

CUT TO

INT. /EXT EASTWOOD BLOCK - BALCONY -DAY

Windows smash walls are peppered with bullets, a noisy hell.Crouched fearfuly behind a couch FERGIE purposely fires his weapon harmlessly into the air as the Eastwood Defense Committee murderously pours bullets into Jagger Block. Fergie's none too happy about all this.He looks over to the other safe place in the room, under a

CONTINUED:

table,a now terrified mother and her two children squat.The young girl however seems unmoved and plays with her doll.She fusses with it's dress talking to it the lies it down and smashes it with all her stregnth.

FERGIE
I am out of here.

Fergie crawls toward the ammo crates. Glances back. No one is watching him. Seizing his chance, he starts scurrying toward the fire door at the end of the balcony.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET - BLOCK WAR - DAY

THE BLOCK WAR is in full swing. Smoke fills the street, practically obliterating the warring blocks from view. The sounds of automatic weapons fire, exploding glass, and screams, fill the air.

HERSHEY AND BRISCO huddle behind their bikes at the perimeter. The THUNDEROUS ROAR of a LAWMASTER rises above the sound of the riot. It seems to stop in the center of the fighting.

BRISCO
Is that our back-up? Out there in the middle of the street? Who the hell would do that?

Hershey smiles ruefully.

HERSHEY
Only one Judge I know of.

CLOSE ON A LAWMASTER'S FRONT TIRE. It SKIDS to a SMOKING HALT.

CLOSE ON TWO HEAVY BOOTS. They hit the pavement.
A GLOVED HAND grabs a MEGAPHONE.

WIDE ON THE SMOKE FILLED STREET. A voice, amplified by the megaphone, ROARS up through the obscuring cloud of smoke.

VOICE
THESE BLOCKS ARE UNDER ARREST!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!STOP FIGHTING!

Abruptly, the fighting ceases. As the smoke begins to dissipate in swirling clouds, a lone figure appears in the center of the street. A muscled, mythic figure of a man in Judge's helmet and uniform. JUDGE DREDD.

CONTINUED:

ON THE BLOCKS. A thousand faces peer down at Dredd. We hear a tiny voice squeak among them.

TINY VOICE
Judge Dredd...uh oh.

ON HERSHEY AND BRISCO. Brisco stares at Dredd in awe. Dredd's a legend.

BRISCO
Is that...really him?

HERSHEY
Every pound of him.

ON JUDGE DREDD. Dead bodies and debris litter the pavement around him. He glares up at the source of mayhem with disdain.

DREDD
Total lawlessness. All around me.

A torrential storm of machine guns, rocket launchers, pistols and knives clatter to the pavement around Dredd. The street is transformed into an adhoc armory. Then, from above, Trachea's voice drifts down.

TRACHEA
(off)
Eat this, Dredd!

A blast of gunfire follows. The bullets CHEW UP the pavement at Dredd's feet. A few others join in, unwilling to surrender. Dredd glowers up at them. Leisurely strides to Hershey and Brisco.

DREDD

What's the problem?

HERSHEY

Waiting for back-up

DREDD

It's here.

Hershey and Brisco ready their Lawgiver pistols as Dredd joins them. A half dozen PAT WAGONS, large police vans, race up at the end of the block.

CONTINUED:

HERSHEY
Pat Wagons are here, Dredd.

DREDD
(Looking up)
Looks like top two floors only. Let's keep it simple. Standard relay. Single file.

HERSHEY
Tag em and bag em. You got it, Dredd.

DREDD
Stay behind me.

Hershey nods. Brisco, eager to prove himself, steps in front of Dredd at the Eastwood Block entrance.

BRISCO
I'll go first.

DREDD
You go last.

Brisco frowns, defensive.

BRISCO
Excuse me, Judge, but I've trained in Block Sims at the Academy. Very advanced and aggressive program. Not like your day. Let me take point. Show you what I can do.

Dredd looks at Brisco as if he were a bug. Then at Hershey. She nods, exasperated.

HERSHEY
All morning.

Dredd gets right in Brisco's face. Brisco shrinks a bit.

DREDD
How old are you, Rookie?

BRISCO
Nineteen... sir.

DREDD
Want to be twenty? Do what I say.

Dredd pushes Brisco back behind Hershey. Turns toward the Eastwood entrance as he draws his Lawgiver.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
Get down.

Dredd speaks into the tiny computer built into his massive handgun Then aims at the door.

DREDD

Grenade

KABOOM! The round punches a huge hole in the steel door, knocking it off its hinges. Dredd raises his boot and savagely kicks the door.

CUT TO

INT. EASTWOOD BLOCK - LOBBY - DAY

The door flies toward CAMERA, landing on the floor as Dredd strides through the opening. Hershey and Brisco are right behind.

A DOZEN EASTWOOD DEFENDERS, men, women, teenagers and an elderly lady stand in shock. they are armed to the teeth but do not move only watch Dredd with awe as he walks through to who appears to be the leader.

WHISPERED VOICE
Its Dredd!

DREDD takes out a link of handcuffs and hands them to the man, his mouth still open.

MAN

We were, er, we didn't...

DREDD
Cuff them then yourself

MAN
Yes sir

DREDD
Possesssion of illegal fire-arms,public disturbances..Five years a piece

CONTINUED:

MAN

Thankyou

DEREDD ALL IN ONE MOVE IS OFF TO THE STAIRS.EVAN HERSHEY AND BRISCO ARE SUPRISED AT HE EASE.THEY FOLLOW.

EXT. STREET - DAY

MORE JUDGES rush into the buildings. Others at the Pat Wagons throw open the doors, revealing benches with shackles inside.

INT. EASTWOOD BLOCK - CORRIDOR - DAY

DREDD kicks open a stair well door and strides into the corridor. Hershey and Brisco follow behind him.

AHEAD, Eastwoods spin around, see justice coming at them, and begin to scatter like cockroaches, jumping into apartments for cover.

DREDD

Cease hostilities, now.

DREDD knocks on the door with his gun. and again in one move throws his back flat to the wall as a whole explodes into the door.He looks at Brisco as he speaks to the gun again

DREDD

Hi-ex

He swings back kicking the door in and fires hi-explosive into the room, carnage. Hershey and Brisco have their hans over thier ears.Through the smoke Dredd peers in.

DREDD

This room is pacified.

CUT TO

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - DAY

Fergie jumps into the corridor, fleeing the sound of GUNFIRE. He skids to a halt as he sees Judges streaming in at the far end. He spins around and charges back the way he came, running for his life.

He sees a small TRASH CHUTE DOOR on the wall just before the elevator.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FERGIE
That's me.

Fergie flings it open. Dives in. Screams as he drops away.

CUT TO

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - DAY

Dredd, Hershey, and Brisco stride forward. Behind them, other Judges pass arrested perps down the length of the hall. The relay in action.

AT THE NEXT CORNER. Dredd glances around to the other side. A few Eastwoods are fleeing the far end. Locked apartment doors line the hall. Dredd signals Hershey and Brisco.

DREDD
No perps in sight. Lots of doors.

HERSHEY
Watch your six,Dredd.

DREDD
You watch it for me.

Dredd steps into the corridor. Hershey leans around it, Lawgiver raised. Brisco starts to move past her, eager to get into the action.

HERSHEY
Stay back, Rookie!

Brisco dutifully ducks back, but his expression is pure frustration.

DREDD kicks in the first door. Bellows at the armed Eastwoods inside.

DREDD
This room is under arrest!

Terrorfied they toss their weapons to the floor.The room is in pieces, the men too. Hershey steps up beside Dredd.

Brisco glances down the hall. Suddenly bolts ahead of them.

BRISCO
I'll take the next one!

Before they can stop him, Brisco races to the next apartment door.

CONTINUED:

HERSHEY
No!

Brisco kicks the door in. Stands exposed, like an idiot. Several armed Eastwoods stare out at him, rifles raised.

BRISCO
This room is under--

Before he can finish the sentence, BOSCO and THATCHEA open fire. BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA! Brisco is cut to pieces.

BOSCO

Woo! that's it. Come and get it Judgies!

DREDD spins around. Sees Brisco dead in the hall. Snarls, enraged. Hershey whirls to keep the first room covered.

DREDD speaks again into his lawgiver aims through the open door. His Lawgiver starts spewing death. BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM!

DREDD

Rapid fire

He rolls a complete turn on the floor, the gun like a high powered machine gun spewing bullets across Thatchea's and Bosco's legs.They fall to the ground in agony, Bosco flying through the balcony window

Dredd steps inside.THATCHEA goes for gun,

DREDD
For assaulting a Judge...

BLAM, BLAM, BLAM. THATCHEA is history

DREDD
..the sentence...

DREDD re-aims as BOSCO struggles for his gun

DREDD

..is death

BLAM! BOSCO is thrown off the balcony by the blast.

IN THE HALL. Other Judges are now converging on the scene. They begin

CONTINUED:

passing sentence on the Eastwoods in the first apartment as Dredd joins Hershey over Brisco's body. He forces his eyes empty of emotion. Hershey stares down at Brisco, distraught.

HERSHEY
Goddamnit, kid. You should have listened to me.

DREDD
He was stupid. There's no room for that out here.

Hershey whirls on Dredd. Pissed off.

HERSHEY
That's all you've got to say?

DREDD
He was arrogant too.

HERSHEY
That's pretty cold, Dredd.

DREDD
He'll be colder in an hour. If you want to stay warm, stay alert.

CUT TO

INT. EASTWOOD BLOCK - LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is filled with Judges escorting arrestees out. Dredd and Hershey herd two more of their own into the line. Dredd addresses the Judge processing the perps.

DREDD
That's everybody. These get ten apiece and no parole. Have a nice day.

Suddenly, a brash young firebrand charges up to him. HAMMOND. He glowers at Dredd.

HAMMOND
Hold it right there, Dredd. You are in some serious trouble.

Dredd stares at Hammond, amazed and annoyed.

DREDD
Who are you?

CONTINUED:

HAMMOND
Vardis Hammond. I represent the Eastwood Block Defense Committee and I order you to immediately stop the harassment of these law abiding citizens.

DREDD
How would you like a year in the Cubes?

HAMMOND
You have nothing to charge me with. I know my rights, and I demand justice! I'm filing a complaint against you.

Dredd looks unimpressed.

DREDD
Do it outside. Because in another second I *will* have something to charge you with. Interfering with a Judge.

With that, Dredd pushes Hammond aside, then strides toward the lobby doors, passing a TRASH SHOOT set into the wall. Dredd pauses. Doubles back. Flings it open. A pair of feet dangle in view. Dredd grabs an ankle and yanks hard. Fergie comes tumbling out of the chute. He looks up. Feigns relief.

FERGIE
Rescued! Thank god.

Dredd hauls him to his feet. Pushes him toward the line of perps.

DREDD
Heres one more. Five years in Iso-cube

FERGIE
NO! Hey! Judge. Really, you don't want this on your heads. You gotta listen to me.

Fergie springs after Dredd moving out onto the street. Dredd glances at him but blocks out his plea.

DREDD
You have a problem, lawbreaker?

FERGIE
Huge! Very big. See, I didn't do anything. I was just looking for my apartment when these
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

FERGIE (cont'd)
maniacs started killing each other. This whole things a mistake.

DREDD
I don't make mistakes. You should have attempted to call us. Silence is guilt.

FERGIE
I thought it was golden.

At the same time HERSHEY pulls a small device from her belt. BIRDIE is inscribed at its top. Fergie stares at it uncomfortably as Hershey presses it to his throat.

FERGIE
What is that thing?

HERSHEY
Bullshit detector. Think about what happened.

Fergie closes his eyes, straining at the task.
THE BIRDIE'S screen shows a live shot of Fergie. Breaks it down into rotating graphics as it examines his mind.
Hershey frowns at the results.

HERSHEY
Can't get a solid reading. He's probably been lying for so long, his own synapses don't know what's true anymore.

FERGIE
I object to that.

DREDD
Overruled.

Judge Cooper calls from one of the Judge wagons.

COOPER

Dredd? Message form Chief Judge Fargo.He'd like to see you, now.

As Dredd is distracted Fergie tries to slip away. As if there were eyes in the back of his head Dredd grabs him with bullet speed and no effert.In one move slamming his head on the wall and back around .He puts his face into Fergies and pulls a pocket computer from his belt. Punches up Fergie's jacket. Frowns as he reads.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
You were released from Isocube this morning. Too bad. Associating with criminals is a violation of your parole and carries a mandatory sentence. You don't get five years in the cube. You get eight. On Aspen.

Fergie eyes go wide. Then he faints. The other Judges drag him away. Hershey turns to Dredd, disappointed in him.

HERSHEY
That's pretty rough for a guy who might not even be guilty. You could have shown some leniency.

Dredd glances past her as two Med Techs carry Brisco's body out the lobby and load him into the meat wagon. Hershey follows his gaze.

DREDD
Leniency encourages crime.

CUT TO

EXT. HALL OF JUSTICE - BALCONY - DAY

Fargo and Dredd stand on a large marble balcony that overlooks Mega City. Dredd stands stoically. But we can see his eyes through the helmet and they are sad and upset.

DREDD
You can't retire. The city needs you.

FARGO
It's already done. They want Griffin I'm out.

Dredd takes that in. Fargo turns and stares out at the city.

FARGO
My father built this city. You ever wonder what the world looked like before the collapse?

DREDD
This is the only world I know.

Fargo nods.

FARGO
Well, the Cursed Earth was like Eden. Drop a seed at your feet and and a tree would grow. You could even swim in the oceans. Or so he told me. Then it all
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

FARGO (cont'd)
began to die, and the panic started. Border wars, then food wars then, disease. Stupid business.After that you can do two things, stay away from everyone else and help yourself or send out the invites, and build them a house. Just up and formed a new society. That man had balls. And vision. The Judge System is harsh. Has to be. It's a harsh world. But he knew right from wrong. And he respected the people the System rules. I like to think he instilled those ideals in me.

Fargo turns to Dredd.

FARGO
And that I passed them on to you.

Their eyes meet. Dredd holds his emotions in check. But his eyes give him away again. Fargo steps closer.

FARGO
Don't trust Griffen.

Dredd nods. Fargo lays a fatherly hand on his shoulder.

DREDD
I'll come see you at the Academy.

FARGO
No, no academy. I'm taking the The Long Walk.

Dredd looks stunned.

DREDD
That's a death sentence.

FARGO
I'm an old man. It suits me. Best way for old warriors like me to go out. Besides, I don't think anyone wants to learn what I have to teach.

DREDD
There's nothing in the Cursed Earth but outcasts and lawlessness.

CONTINUED:

FARGO
Then I'll bring the law to 'em.

Fargo steps back to the balcony's rail. Gives his beloved city a last look.

FARGO
Watch your six o'clock,son. Always some creep sneaking up behind you.

DREDD
Watch yours, old man.

CAMERA SLOWLY TRACKS UP, rising toward the top of the balcony. Buried in a crevice in the stone walls we see the LENS of a HIDDEN CAMERA.

ANGLE ON DREDD AND FARGO. Still on the balcony. PULL BACK. We're looking at them on a SURVEILLANCE MONITOR. PAN AROUND, revealing GRIFFIN, watching.

CUT TO

INT. LOCK - SUNSET

THE LOCKOUT CHAMBER that we saw in the opening scene is now filled with CADETS, young teenagers from the Judge's Academy. They flank the walls, forming an honor guard, at attention. Behind them stands JUDGE HERSHEY and some of the others we saw at the block war. Dredd is not among them. No one speaks.

JUDGE FARGO stands before the Cadets, wearing a LONG DUSTER COAT and a wide brimmed HAT. Before him he holds his uniform, Lawgiver, and badge in a ceremonial bundle. He steps toward one of the cadets, CRAWFORD, a strapping young lad of fifteen. Offers the bundle.

FARGO
Cadet Crawford.

Crawford reverently takes it. Hands Fargo a sawed-off SCATTERGUN, and the BOOK OF LAW. Crawford's eyes are misting; they revere Fargo. Crawford reads from a scroll, his young voice trembling.

CRAWFORD
In the beginning, the world died. And from its ashes the Judge System was born. To those ashes one of us today returns...

FARGO Looks up, his eyes full of wisdom and expectation. HERSHEY follows his gaze. ON THE GRID ABOVE. Judge Dredd stands, looking down. Grim faced. HERSHEY glances up. Sees him. And the grief in his eyes. CRAWFORD continues.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CRAWFORD
To bring the light of law to the heathens of the dark. Justice to the realm of the Cursed Earth. And death and honor to himself. Judge Fargo has chosen. Let it be so.

The two lines of cadets salute. Lawgivers drawn and pointed high forming an arch of weapons. Fargo turns toward the gate, hefting the shotgun and the book. His eyes stare grimly ahead, awaiting the world outside.

THE HUGE GATE start to open, revealing, the CURSED EARTH beyond. It stretches to the horizon; a vast desert of ruins and parched ground. he blinding light makes the cadets turn away their eyes or squint but FARGO takes a breath staring straight ahead. The dessert wind blows sand all over the floor.

FARGO gazes out into the wasteland. Starts moving toward it. As he strides into the desert, the gates close on him with an ominous, ringing CLLAAANG!

HERSHEY looks up for DREDD but he is gone.

CUT TO

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - AFTERNOON

Griffin presides over the council. Dredd stands before them. The gallery, full of spectators, eagerly watches the proceedings. Hammond angrily addresses the council, pointing an accusing finger at Dredd.

HAMMOND
This man killed, in cold blood, nearly a dozen residents of Eastwood block...

DREDD
They resisted arrest.

HAMMOND
They were defending themselves!

Dredd glares coldly. Hammond whirls back to the bench.

HAMMOND
What I want to know, and I'm sure I speak for all the citizens of Mega City, is what you intend to do about this?

Griffin glowers down at Hammond.

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN
Do not presume to speak for the citizens of this city. And as for Judge Dredd's conduct, you have no right to question it.

Dredd interrupts.

DREDD
Excuse me, Judge Griffin. But he has every right under the law to lodge a complaint of illegal use of force and even wrongful death. It's in the charter of unalienable rights.

Hammond gives Dredd a puzzled look.
Griffin delivers a chilly gaze to Dredd.

GRIFFIN
Thank you very much, Judge, for correcting me.

Griffin turns his eyes back to Hammond.

GRIFFIN
However, I find no merit in the charges. In fact I have decided to award Judge Dredd with a Commendation of Valor for his performance this afternoon. And further--

DREDD
I don't except.

Griffin stares in icy anger.

GRIFFIN
I beg your pardon.

DREDD
I was doing my job. Nothing more. I don't need a commendation for that.

GRIFFIN
That is for me to decide. As for you...
(to Hammond)
And I am suspending the Defense Committees as of this moment. Their weapons are to be confiscated. I am also implementing a curfew. There will be other reforms to follow.

Griffin looks up and addresses the gallery as well.

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN
This city has gotten out of control and I intend to make it safe again for law abiding citizens. This session is closed.

With that, Griffin bangs his gavel and rises from his chair. The gallery breaks out in loud chatter. Hammond gapes, dumbfounded. As the Council exits the room, Hammond glares at Dredd.

HAMMOND
I'm not finished with you, Dredd.

DREDD
Threatening a Judge is a crime. Go home. Take a cold shower.

Hammond whirls around and storms from the chamber. Dredd follows the other Judges into the hall.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR

Dredd strides through the hall. Griffin charges after him.

GRIFFIN
What the hell do you think you were doing in there?

Dredd stops. Indifferently gazes into the eyes of the new Chief Judge.

DREDD
Telling the truth. What were you doing?

GRIFFIN
Making a point...

Griffin appraises Dredd. Tries a friendlier tack.

GRIFFIN
Look, I know you were very fond of Judge Fargo.

Dredd waits.

GRIFFIN
But he's gone. And I'm going to depend on you to help me turn things around in this city. You'll find that I make a better friend than an adversary. Can I count you?

CONTINUED:

DREDD
I'll do my job.

With that, Dredd turns and strides away. Griffin stares after him, troubled.

CUT TO

INT. JUDGE PRECINCT - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

A large communal affair. Male and female Judges shower immodestly side by side. Hershey stands under one of the jets, letting the water cascade over her. She notices Dredd at the door, moving toward the row of lockers.

AT THE LOCKERS. Dredd stands before Brisco's open locker. All of its contents are in a large carry bag at Dredd's feet. Dredd shuts the locker door, then slides Brisco's name plate from its holder. Drops it into the bag and zips it shut. Turns...

HERSHEY, wet, clad in a towel is standing beside him. Her eyes are troubled. Dredd can tell something's bothering her.

DREDD
Something wrong, Judge Hershey?

Hershey hesitates, searching for words.

HERSHEY
I shouldn't have... snapped at you back at the scene. I was upset about Brisco.

DREDD
He wasn't your fault.

She shakes her head no, distraught.

HERSHEY
I was responsible for his safety.

DREDD
He broke with procedure. His actions not only ended his own life, they endangered ours. Were all better off without him.

Dredd starts to head toward the exit. Hershey frowns. Steps in front of him. He stares, perturbed.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
You're blocking the exit.

HERSHEY
Yeah.

DREDD
That's a violation of the fire code.

HERSHEY
I'm trying to apologize to you.

DREDD
I know.

HERSHEY
Then don't walk away, that pisses me off.

They stare at each other a beat.

DREDD
Listen, Hershey. Brisco was a hazard. A Judge has to be highly trained and disciplined, or he has no business being on the street because this city has more ways to kill you than you can think of. Every law abiding citizen is potentially a perp resting between crimes.

Hershey frowns.

HERSHEY
Did it ever occur to you that *that* attitude might be contributing to the problem?

DREDD
I believe in the Judge System. Swift. And harsh. Without it, the city is finished. You know it as well as I do.

HERSHEY
I also know you better than you think. Why won't you just admit you're as upset about Brisco's death as I am?

Dredd frowns at her. We see that shes right. But he can't do it.

DREDD
Judge Hershey, you're having a crisis. Put some clothes on and contact the Psych Division.

CONTINUED:

With that, Dredd pushes past. Hershey stares after him, frustrated.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CHIEF JUDGES OFFICE - NIGHT

We track silently through the doorway across a polished marble floor. Steel walls. Cold. Futuristic. A huge desk dominates the impressive room. Griffin sits behind it,His eyes full of intent.Behind him the back wall is dominated by a videophone image

GRIFFIN
Good and all else is well I take it?

VOICE
Well, shall we say, the same.

GRIFFIN
(smiles) Well I have some good news

INTERCUT

INT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - WARDENS OFFICE - NIGHT

A drab looking room. WARDEN JUDGE MILLER sits behind the desk. He's about Griffin's age. Weasel-like. Big grin.

MILLER
I already heardp. Congratulations. I hope you're not going to forget your friends.

INTERCUT

GRIFFIN. He smiles with barely hidden contempt at Miller's image.

GRIFFIN
Never. Did you get my package?

Miller holds up a small flat plastic box.

MILLER
Pouched on the last shuttle.
(looks at it)
Thumb print lock. I'm intrigued.

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN
It's a message for your guest. How is he?

MILLER smiles.

MILLER
Still dead. To the world. Don't worry, his care and feeding has been my top priority.

GRIFFIN
Good.

Griffin smiles.

MILLER
So for me? I've been a trusted ally. Perhaps my seat on the council?

GRIFFIN
Perhaps. Deliver the message. Then dispose of your guest and take the next shuttle back here.

Miller grins. Bounces the plastic box in his palm.

MILLER
Goodbye note, I suppose?

GRIFFIN
Yes.

MILLER
It'll be a pleasure.

CUT TO

EXT. ASPEN PENAL COLONY - DAY

An ominous factory fortress in the center of the mountains. Wind howls through the tall spires that rise above the compound walls, topped by concertina wire. Guard towers at every corner. If the Cursed Earth is hell, then this is hells prison.

INT. ASPEN COLONY

Miller strides down a spotless, tiled corridor, flanked by uniformed guards carrying RIOT GUNS. Set into one of the walls are a series of windows that look out onto the factory area of the prison complex. As Miller passes...

THROUGH THE WINDOW we see the prisoners at work before the immense machinery. A huge sign, floating above their heads says:

RADICAL CARBON 4
THE CLEANEST FUEL ON EARTH

THE PRISON WORKERS sweat, shirtless in the humid atmosphere, digging out the ore that fuels Mega City.

A FUEL BARGE waits at the dock. ARMED GUARDS wearing ENVIRONMENT SUITS supervise the prisoners as the barge is loaded.

CUT TO

INT. CELLBLOCK

Miller and the guards stride through the cellblocks. Cells have been retrofitted into the old industrial complex, lined with institutional tile and concrete from the last century.

At the far end of the block, the guard unlocks a heavy door. Beyond is the Maximum Security section.

CUT TO

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

Miller and the guards descend a large, circular iron STAIRCASE. They stride through this old part of the original industrial complex, lined with institutional tile and concrete from the last century. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR.

MILLER
Wait outside.

The guards nod. Start opening the triple locks on the door.

CUT TO

INT. RICO'S CELL

Stark. The tile walls are old and cracked. No windows. No way out. A forgotten corner of the complex. Motion sensor AUTOGUNS are mounted in each corner, constantly sweeping the room.

In the center is a CIRCULAR PLATFORM. A vertical sheet of translucent BLUE LIGHT surrounds it; a shimmering curtain of energy. Inside, a figure stirs. He sits on a bench, shackles on his hands and feet.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

Miller and the guards descend a large, circular iron STAIRCASE. They stride through this old part of the original industrial complex, lined with institutional tile and concrete from the last century. Everything gets progressively dirtier and dilapidated as they go. Finally, they reach a MASSIVE STEEL DOOR. On it's side a screen and mini computer.

MILLER
Wait outside.

The guards nod.MILLER stands close to the screen. CUT TO

MILLER

Miller, warder.

A red lazer style light flicks on scanning his eye. A bolts slams. The heavy door lifts open.

COMPUTER

Vocal and Retinal scan reconized.Authorised

INT. RICO'S CELL

The large room is circular, like the bottom of a huge chimney. Stark. The tile walls are old and cracked. No windows. No way out. A forgotten corner of the complex. Motion sensor AUTOGUNS are mounted in each corner.

In the center is a CIRCULAR PLATFORM. A vertical sheet of translucent BLUE LIGHT surrounds it; a shimmering curtain of energy. Inside, a figure stirs. He sits on a bench, shackles on his hands and feet.

Miller steps inside. The AUTOGUNS immediately swivel toward him. He waits. A visible laser reads the Judge's badge on his chest. The guns

Miller smiles toward the half-seen figure across the room. The door closes behind him. CLUNK.

MILLER
Rico, you're looking well for a dead man.

The figure draws a bead of sweat from his forehead and absently flicks it at the curtain between them. THWACK! The droplet sizzles and disintegrates. The figure speaks in a voice like caked sand. RICO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICO
Have you come for another chat?

MILLER
A short one, I'm afraid. Duty presses.

Rico issues a dry laugh. Rattles his bonds.

RICO
The chains of office. It seems we're all prisoners here.

MILLER
Just you.

RICO
We've both been sentenced and forgotten. Fargo's reward for service.

MILLER
You went far beyond mere service. The Special Action Unit, that little club of yours, had a lot to do with it.

Rico stands. Moves toward the energy curtain. Glares at Miller.

RICO
I merely did what you and every other Judge dream of, but lack the courage to carry out. Removing the cancer from the system instead of allowing it to fester in an Iso Cube. I did more to improve Mega City in two years than Fargo and the others did in fifty.

MILLER
It was nothing but a death squad. Killing innocent people does nothing to improve relations.

Rico gives Miller a quizzical smile.

RICO
Innocent ? A near meaningless abstraction. The innocent exist only in a finite, temporary state. Relative to that inevitable point in time and space when they become perpetrators. So we are merely discussing a fine point of timing.

CONTINUED:

MILLER
Not everyone Rico.

Rico chuckles to himself, amused.

RICO
No? I should have been executed. You've conspired to keep me alive. That's a crime, Miller. You see... even you. Everyone.

Miller frowns at Rico, not happy at having this pronouncement placed upon him.Beside him sits another computer consil. He speaks into it.

MILLER

Lower shield and activate snipers

The lazer curtain drop slowley and the gun placements on the walls swivle towards Rico.They click on like a machine gun loading.

MILLER.
A... fascinating observation. You can take the rest of your life and ponder it. But I'm afraid you'll have to do it alone. A lot has happened.

RICO
What? Fargo?

MILLER
(smiling)
Fargo's out. He's taken the Long Walk. Griffin's running things now. And I'm on my way to join him on the council.

RICO
I see.

MILLER
But first, He asked me to give you a message before I go. I hope it's bad news.

MILLER moves into THE CIRCULAR CAGE. He hands athe packsge to RICO.He stares at it. Places his thumb on the thumbprint lock. The envelope opens. The guns on the walls follow RICO's every move.

CONTINUED:

ON THE ENVELOPE. Rico's JUDGE'S BADGE rests inside. Along with a simple two word message: Welcome back.

RICO smiles. Miller sees the badge, confused.

MILLER

Your badge? I don't understand.

RICO

You're right. It is bad news.

Behind the badge lies two black metal parts. One trigger device the size of a pocket calculator and a tube the size of a thick pen. RICO has them snapped together and activated in secounds.

RICO

For you.

MILLER'S eyes go wide. RICO points the mini gun at him and fires blowing a lazer blast into MILLER's throat.

He falls to the floor clutching the bloody wound, choking.

His voice croaking.

MILLER

(cough) Computer...activate

COMPUTER

Voice not reconized. Warning, remain still

MILLER panics scrambling across the floor to the consil.

MILLER

NO!

COMPUTER

Security breach. Target locked

An ALARM sounds . The AUTOGUNS go off.
BOOM!BOOM!BOOM!BOOM!BOOM!
MILLER is torn to pieces!

RICO smiles to himself as he picks up MILLER's body, holding it between himslf and the platform.

COMPUTER

CONTINUED:

Re-activating shield

The lazer curtain drops back down leaving RICO outside and cutting MILLER's head off at the neck with a CRACK!

COMPUTER

Identification needed for disarming

With MILLER's wide eyed sevred head RICO walks to the computer consil holding it up to the screen.

CUT TO

OUTSIDE THE DOOR. The TWO GUARDS have heard the guns. They jack shells into their riot guns. Hurriedly open the door.

CUT TO

BACK IN THE ROOM. The two guards step inside. See Miller splayed across the floor. But no Rico. Then...

RICO, holding onto the AUTOGUN MOUNT in the corner of the ceiling above them, drops down. The guards start to turn. Too late.

Rico moves like fatal lightning.
Kicks, snapping one of the guard's knees.
Sends his elbow into the other's windpipe. They go down.
He snatches one of the riot guns.

Rico reaches down to the writhing guards. Picks off their badges. Turns toward the door. As he strides out, closing the door behind him, we hear the MUFFLED BOOM of the autoguns going into their orgy.

CUT TO

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

Rico strides toward the circular staircase at the end. Pauses at its base. Swings the butt of the riotgun against the iron banister, shattering it. He tucks the shortened weapon under his arm and strides up the stairs.

CUT TO

EXT. ACADEMY OF JUDGES - NIGHT

Dredd, still carrying Brisco's locker room bag, climbs the steps to the entrance of the Academy. CADET CRAWFORD stands guard at the gate. Dredd nods to him. Crawford's eyes fill with awe at Dredd.

CRAWFORD
The Academy's closed for the day, sir.

DREDD
I have some private business, cadet.

Cadet Crawford hesitates. Looks down and sees dead Judge Brisco's duty bag in Dredd's hand.

CRAWFORD
Very well, sir.

Dredd moves past him, into the complex.

ON HERSHEY, across the street, hidden in the shadows, watching. She frowns puzzled, then realizes something. Smiles ruefully.

CUT TO

INT. ACADEMY - NIGHT

A vast cathedral of a place. No one else around. Dredd's footsteps echo off the walls. Murals, intended to inspire and edify the cadets, give us a swift lesson in the history of this world as Dredd moves through the place.

Displays chronicle events in law enforcement from the old days when this was NEW YORK CITY, through the time of ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE, the BORDER and FOOD WARS, then leading up to the reinstatement of order under the JUDGE SYSTEM.

CUT TO

INT. ACADEMY - HALL OF HEROES

Dredd strides into the room. There are no displays here. Just marble walls containing the ceremonial CRYPTS of fallen Judges. A little brass name plate identifies each one. Dredd begins slowly marching past the names. At the end of the room are EMPTY CRYPTS. Dredd pauses before one. Sets down the bag. Pulls open the crypt's marble faced drawer.

Dredd opens Brisco's duty bag. Reverently places the contents in the crypt. Brisco's uniform, neatly folded. His boots. Helmet. Badge. His Lawgiver. Dredd solemnly slides the vault shut. Places Brisco's BRASS LOCKER TAG in the open slot. Then steps back. Salutes. A private funeral.

CUT TO

INT. DREDD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dimly lit back room. Spartan. Two chairs. Some exercise equipment. The meager decoration is almost entirely related to the Judge System. A framed copy of the constitution. The civil code. Etc.Dredd sits in a chair in the corner of the living room. He's off duty, out of uniform, but his face is hidden by a shadow that arcs across him. VIVALDI plays gently from the hidden speakers. He pours a drink from a bottle. Sips while he broods at the portraits on the opposite wall. We hear an electronic chime. The HOUSEHOLD COMPUTER'S VOICE softly speaks.

COMPUTER VOICE
You have a visitor.

Dredd turns toward a monitor that displays the image of the person outside his door. Hershey. He sighs.

DREDD
Let her in.

INT.FRONT ROOM, DOORWAY. (CONT.)

HERSHEY enters, humble, cautious.The hallway is just as bare, and darker. She follows the light from the back room, entering to see the light on the table illuminating a photograph.This seems the only personal touch to the room, two portraits. A middle age man and woman arranged side by side. With the wilting flowers set underneath it seems like a small shrine. Dredd's voice makes her turn to see him set in he corners shadow.

DREDD
It's late Hershey.

HERSHEY
Sorry. We just never seem to finish our conversations. I hate that.

Dredd takes another drink.

DREDD
Maybe you should get counselling for that too.

Hershey frowns. Let's it pass. Glances around his apartment.

HERSHEY
I've never been here before. You don't believe in overdecorating, do you?

CONTINUED:

Dredd says nothing. Hershey glances at the portraits.

HERSHEY
Are those your parents?

DREDD
Were

HERSHEY
They're dead? I'm sorry

DREDD
They were murdered

HERSHEY
(gradually)
My parents were murdered too. Something you didn't know Dredd. That's why I became a Judge. Same as you. But I didn't go to the Academy as young as you did. I got to grew up on the streets. A hard place, for a kid. But you do learn a lot. About people. About living.
(looks over to Dredd)
Like not taking every feeling that hits you and burying it until you think it can't touch you anymore. That's a stupid way to live.

Even in shadow we can see Dredd frown at her. His voice is a snarl.

DREDD
Was there some reason you came here?

HERSHEY
I saw you at the Academy tonight. I think what you did for Brisco was very touching. It would have a meant a lot to him.

Dredd stirs, uncomfortable. She's going to gush about him now. But then she takes a step closer and her expression becomes angry.

HERSHEY
And I think what pissed me off about it the most was that I could have used that kind of comfort when I asked you for it.
(She gets up to leave)
You're not alone Dredd. None of us are. And taking care of each other is what makes us

(MORE)

HERSHEY (cont'd)
human. That's part of being a Judge too, Dredd. Think about it.

With that, Hershey stalks from the room.

We stay with Dredd as the door is heard shutting. He slowley looks to the photograph of his parents. Outside sirens echo across the skyline.

CUT TO

EXT. MEGA CITY FREIGHT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The ASPEN FUEL BARGE drifts toward the Mega City gate. The words RADICAL CARBON 4 are emblazoned on its side.

THE GATE slowly rises.

CUT TO

IN THE LOCK. The Barge hovers as border Guards shine flashlights into the undercarriage. One of them radios the guard in the tower.

1ST GUARD
Its clean.Let's get her unloaded.

CONTAINER CARS, automated open bed TRUCKS pull up alongside the barge. CHUTES iris open on either side of the fuel barge, then extend downward like steel teats. The contents begin to spill out into the trucks. A WHITE POWDERY ORE. Radical Carbon 4, the blood that fuels Mega City.

ON THE TRUCKS, filling up with RC4. RICO emerges from the ore, like a cockroach climbing from a sugar bowl. He wears one of the Aspen Guard's protective environment suits. In his hand he still clutches the short riot gun. Rico scurries to the truck's edge and leaps to the ground.

RICO glances around. No one in sight. Then a hapless FOREMAN, chewing on the end of a cigar, stumbles around the back of the truck, almost bumping into him. He frowns.

FOREMAN
Hey!

RICO
Hush.

Rico swiftly grabs the man by the neck and slams his head against the side of the truck, killing him. He snatches the cigar from the foreman's mouth, then casually lets go the body. THUMP. Takes a puff. Smiles.

CONTINUED:

RICO
Home again.

Rico bends to the dead Foreman and begins stripping off his clothes.

CUT TO

EXT. MEGA CITY - NIGHT

The 42nd street of the city. Loud, flashy neon. Sex distict. This is not a nice part of town. Rico steps from the shadows. Stares at a large warehouse across the street. A huge sign is painted across it's front: GEIGER'S GUNS. Rico heads for the front door.

CUT TO

INT. GEIGER'S GUNS - NIGHT

A large barn of a place. The front half is a retail store. Pistols, rifles, and other weapons from our era and beyond, are displayed on the walls and in glass cases. The back of the place is separated by a ceiling high, locked fence. GEIGER, the owner, is getting ready to close.

Rico, now dressed in the dead Foreman's street clothes, strolls inside. Geiger glances at him. Frowns.

GEIGER
Closing up for the night.

RICO
I won't be long.

Rico flashes his Judge's Badge. Geiger gives it a glance. Frowns again, Then manages to put on an accommodating smile.

GEIGER
Judge, huh? Well, Geiger's always happy to serve the authorities. Yes sir. And every transaction I make is legal and licenced and everyone knows it. My reputation.

Rico quickly peruses the store. No one else around. A simple security camera in the corner. Not much.

GEIGER
Off duty, or undercover, your honor?

RICO
Yes.

Geiger frowns. Then.

GEIGER
Well, if you're looking for some back up, you're at the right place. I specialize in custom carry. Got a whole case devoted to it.

Rico strolls to the fence separating the back of the warehouse. We see a jumble of crates and large antique weapons.Remnants of war. A few things that look like rusting metal warriors, robots.

RICO

Those.

GEIGER

That's just junk left over from the wars

RICO
I want to see one.

GEIGER
The ABC's? Sorry, sir. Those aren't for sale. Just part of my private collection. Completely nonfunctioning I had to disable them to comply with the law, as you know. Tell the truth, they were junk when they were new. Never did work right.

Rico nods.

RICO
Not much security for a place this size.

Geiger laughs. Gestures to all the weapons on the wall.

GEIGER
I've got all the security I need up there...

Then he turns and pulls his shirt up with a wink. A large pistol is tucked into his belt.

GEIGER
And right here.

RICO
Very prudent.

CONTINUED:

Rico swings the riot gun from beneath his coat and FIRES POINT BLANK into Geiger's chest. The astonished shop owner drops to the floor. Dead.

Rico then swings around and aims at the fence's lock. BLAM. It flies open. He strides into the back.

ON THE ABC ROBOT. A huge armored combat veteran. It stands eight feet tall. Frozen. Dead.

Rico stands before it. Smiling.

RICO crouches and pulls off part of the robot's headgear, wires and tubes like dreadlocks fall down. Underneath is an access panel. The disk sized circuit boards are jutting outward.

Rico frowns. He starts to push the disks back in and trigger their components. The ROBOT starts to whir. A GUSH of steam rises from it powerful torso, his eyes glow red.

The last disk goes in, The robots head slowley turns to face Rico. It's eyes now look almost human. It moves like an aching old man.

RICO
Disarmed eh? I know how that feels.My name is Rico. You've been asleep.

ROBOT
Are we going to war?

RICO
(smiles)
Yes, yes we are my friend.

CUT TO

EXT. GRIFFIN'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

It is stormy, some distant lightning.The CITY HEIGHTS spead out before us. Enormous tower blocks. One of which has a floating oil tanker feuling it's peak.We see GRIFFIN walking along the balclony to his penthouse apartment.

INT.GRIFFIN'S PENTHOUSE

Dark. The lights of the city spill through the terrace window. Even by the meager illumination, we can see that the suite is very plush and formal. As befits a head of state.

CONTINUED:

Griffin enters and immediately feels uncomfortable. He looks over to the darkest corner of the room. Opposite him, he can make out a large figure sitting in a chair. A WISP OF STEAM rises like cigarette smoke above it's head. Griffin stares. Lightning through the window ffor a secound illuminates...

THE ABC ROBOT.Fully functional. But it still looks a little worn around the edges.

GRIFFIN
Who the hell...?

Rico's voice answers from the darkness.

RICO
My bodyguard.

Griffin turns on the lights. Rico sits behind his desk. Griffin glares, pissed off.

GRIFFIN
You've got balls bringing one of those goddamned things into my house. Have you lost your mind?

RICO
I can't trust you.

GRIFFIN
I don't care. It offends me. I just handed you back your life. Turn him off.

They stare each other down a beat. Rico smiles. Stands.

RICO
When I was sentenced to death, I didn't tell them I was acting on your orders. Do you think the council would let you keep your seat if they found out?

GRIFFIN
I could have you executed within an hour.

RICO
They'd execute you right after me. I guess I was wrong. We can trust each other after all. Can't we?I'm sorry. Prison makes you cynical. It's tragic. But you can also learn a lot about yourself. I did. From Miller. Like who I am. Where I came
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

RICO (cont'd)
from. ..So, Chief Judge Griffin...Tell me about the Apollo Project. Ineed to know more.

Griffin sighs. Relaxes, as much as he can.

GRIFFIN

Understand one thing Rico. It was me who kept you alive all these years. . .

RICO
So, Why send for me now?

GRIFFIN
I'm going to reinstitute theproject. Sweep away the clutter in this system, until it runs the way it should. Until crime is a thing of the past. Until we are firmly and completely in control.

Rico stares, interested, his mind spinning in new directions. Griffin moves across the room

GRIFFIN
I am Chief Judge now, his city, could be mine. I have great hopes for it. And us. But there are, obsticles. I need you to help me cut through the... bureaucracy,shall we say. No one knows you exist. It's perfect. You can operate in total and complete freedom.

Rico smiles.

RICO
Perhaps you'd like to tell me What tese "obsticles" are?

GRIFFIN
(pauses)
DREDD.

Rico smiles with anticipation.The moment is perfect.Griffin opens a safe on the wall behind his desk. Takes out a bundled uniform. Badge. And Lawgiver pistol. Sets them on the desk before Rico. Rico reaches for the Lawgiver, his eyes dancing.

RICO
Mine?

Griffin nods. Smiles.

RICO
Mine?

Griffin nods. Smiles.

GRIFFIN
Matched to your DNA. Feels good to hold it again doesn't it?

RICO
Thank you. It'll be a pleasure to watch Dredd die.

Griffin shakes his head no.

GRIFFIN
No. no martyr's. Let's do this properly.

CUT TO

INT. EASTWOOD BLOCK - HAMMOND'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dark. The door buzzer sounds. The built in security monitor comes to life. it shows a Judge on the other side of the door. The household computer announces a visitor.

COMPUTER VOICE
You have a visitor.

HAMMOND stumbles in from his bedroom. Sleepy. Annoyed. he glances at the monitor. Frowns.

HAMMOND
At this time?

COMPUTER
It's a Judge

HAMMOND
For God's sake! OK.

The computer automatically unlocks the bolt. Hammond opens the door, irritated.

HAMMOND
It's two o'clock in the morning. What's so important...

Backlit, a shadow of a Judge fills frame. Hammond pauses. Stares. Scared...

HAMMOND

Dredd.

CLOSE ON LAWGIVER. Shoved right into CAMERA. BLAM!

CUT TO

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MORNING

Judges line the corridor. It's been sealed. Crime scene.

DREDD and HERSHEY move past them, toward Hammond's front door. Dredd notes the strange looks the other Judges are giving him.

FOLLOW THEM as they approach the front door. Dredd pushes it open and heads inside...

HAMMOND lies in the center of the room. Dead. Blood spatters the walls. Several more Judges are gathered there, including Cooper and Frakes who are tampering with the in house computer. A FORENSIC JUDGE is finishing tests on tissue and blood samples with his equipment.

Dredd leans down over the body. Hershey stands behind him. The other Judges look on, oddly uncomfortable.

DREDD

Hammond.

FRAKES

That's the guy who brought you up on charges, isn't he? Deserved what he got.

Dredd tosses Frakes a chilly look. Frakes looks away.

DREDD

How long has he been dead?

COOPER

Security monitor caught the whole thing. Two twelve AM.

Dredd rises. They all look toward the Coroner.

DREDD

Play it.

COOPER

It's coming up ASAP, it's an old machine

CONTINUED:

DREDD

What about you Coroner?

CORONER

Well, uh... not the face. But the uh, assailant left traces of saliva, as well. He, uh... spit on the victim. I DNA scanned it and uh...well, the computer came back with a positive ID that seems consistent with the video.

DREDD

Let's hear it.

COOPER

(interupting)
Got it. Playing back.

The Coroner glances at the other Judges. Hits the playback on Hammond's security monitor. Dredd gazes at the screen.

ON THE MONITOR. We see the murder replayed. And quite clearly hear Hammond's last words..."DREDD." A scrambled TV image of a Judge who fires point blank into Hammond's chest. Then steps toward the body and spits on Hammond's corpse. The monitor freezes on the image.

CORONER

You are.

There is a long awkward pause. Hershey stares at the screen.The whole thing repeats, we hear it again..."Dredd."

HERSHEY

Well, it must be a mistake.

CORONER

I thought so too. I ran the DNA sample three times. Even widened the field to include every citizen carried on the rolls in the last five years. .

Hershey looks up at Dredd, who's letting this all sink in.

HERSHEY

This is bullshit.

FRAKES

The evidence is pretty... compelling.

CONTINUED:

HERSHEY
But did you do it? Dredd, did you do it?

DREDD
No.

HERSHEY
Well then--

DREDD
But the law is specific. You have to arrest me.

The other Judges stand like stone. No one wants to do that. Hershey quickly pulls her Birdie from her belt and scans Dredd.

HERSHEY
I'm getting a positive reading. He's innocent.

COOPER
You know that's not admissible as legal evidence. It only measures what the suspect believes to be true.

HERSHEY
You wanna call him a lier Cooper?

COOPER
It won't hold up at a hearing!

DREDD
Your duty as a Judge is clear. Don't worry. Let the council decide.

Hershey looks terribly distraught.

HERSHEY
No.

Dredd faces Cooper.

DREDD
Take my weapon.

Cooper does, reluctantly. Dredd turns to Hershey.

DREDD
I'm waiting.

Hershey stares into his eyes. This kills her.

HERSHEY
Judge Dredd, you are under arrest. I charge you with the murder of Vardis Hammond.

CUT TO

MUSIC STRIKES UP THROUGHOUT.....

CLOSE-UP TV IMAGE

A news reporter speaks to camera, we gradually pull awy to reveal the enormous image is projected onto the city block wall, all forty stories of it.

NEWS REPORTER

Sally DuPont her outside Eastwood block on the South-West Quadrant Downtown where staggering news comes to you live. JUDGE DREDD has just been arrested for the murder of Mr.Vardis Hammond, a city block defense comitee director found dead by neighbours this morning

EXT. EASTWOOD BLOCK (cont.)

In slow-motion DREDD is led out by HERSHEY and COOPER past a line of shocked Judges and citizens, it's gathering quite a crowd.The TV REPORTER is there a floating automatic camera like a soccer ball with lights shooting her image that we see displayed on the JAGGER block behind them.

TV REPORTER (cont)

...Dredd is known to have a history of complaints from Mr.Hammond as we see from our clip here.

Projected behind now is the scrambled image of HAMMOND grabbing DREDD at the COURTROOM.

WE SEE DREDD in close up, glancing up at the image. HERSHEY snarls at the crowd. DREDD seems lost.

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - DAY

THE COUNCIL sits on the dais. Sober faces all around. The gallery is filled with other Judges. Dredd stands before the Council bench. A beam of overhead light envelopes him. Hershey and Cooper flank him. The sounds of the trial are washed away by a dramatic, orchestral DIRGE. Its chords tell us the story as we see...

The court watching the video on a huge wall screen.
Dredd watches it, emotionless.

From the back rooms GRIFFIN, McGRUDER, ESPSITO and SILVER return to the front of the court. Griffin brings his gavel down and speaks to a silent room.

GRIFFIN

On hearing all the evidence and spending much time deliberating this case it is now for me to pass Judgement. Because a Judge is held to the highest standards a betrayel of those standards makes the offense that much worse. I think I have no choice but to the highest sentence in my power at this time as an example to others. JUDGE DREDD you will be taken from here to The Penal Colony of Aspen where you will spend the rest of your life.

ON DREDD. His features are sharp and chiseled. He squints in the bright column of light. His eyes are shocked. He can't believe this is happening.

HERSHEY AND COOPER pull off Dredd's tunic.
DREDD is stripped naked before the council. The light fades down.

A DOOR opens at the side of the chambers.
ARMED GUARDS enter. Roughly pull Dredd away.

CUT TO

INT. SIDE CHAMBER

THE MUSIC CONTINUES as Dredd is handed a prison jumpsuit.
SHACKLES are placed on his hands and feet.
DREDD looks dazed. Numb.

CUT TO

INT. CORRIDOR

SLOW MOTION on a LINE OF PRISONERS moving down the corridor. Their heads bob as they shuffle along. Among them we see DREDD'S FACE rising and falling with each step. He glances at the others around him. Criminals. Perps. The worsrt of Mega City. And now he is one of them.

A GUARD shoves DREDD into the UMBILICAL that leads toward the door of the Prison shuttle.

CUT TO

INT. PRISON SHUTTLE

ARMED GUARDS at both ends of the long cabin.
PRISONERS are being herded into the seats.
DREDD is pushed through the door. It closes behind him. Seals tight.
DREDD turns. Stares at the door. No going back. Ever.
THE GUARD shoves him along. Slams him into a seat.
RESTRAINING GEAR automatically locks each prisoner to his seat.

CUT TO

EXT. SHUTTLE PAD

CLOSE ON SHUTTLE ENGINES. The blast billows across the pad.
THE SHUTTLE rises up. Turns. GUARDS man HEAVY WEAPONS mounted on the top. The shuttle heads toward the gate which CLANKS then opens revealing a dark bleak CURSED EARTH

CUT TO

EXT. TERRACE - PLEASURE PALACE - DAY

A complete contrast. But still in slow motion a party is going on.The most beautiful hookers in MEGA 1 party with some of the most ugly villains.Madam GiGi's Pleasure Palace.The patrons here look about as friendly as the prisoners on the shuttle. Mean customers.But they're in a good mood tonight.

RICO sits on the terrace, above the vast ribbon of Mega City's wall, several blocks away. He watches the prison shuttle leave the gates and head into the Cursed Earth. A strip of sunrise appearing on the distant horizon.He glowers.

A SLEAZY GUY steps up to Rico. He has evil, furtive eyes.A CURSED EARTH MUTANT.

SLEAZE
Guy at he bar said you was looking for me?

RICO
I understand you talk to the Angels...
(gestures toward the Cursed Earth)
...out there.

CONTINUED:

RICO turns his frosty gaze on the Sleaze. Sleaze melts back a bit. Wary.

SLEAZE
I don't know what your talking about

Sleaze starts to go.But turns into solid metal, then looks up to THE ROBOT looking down at him.

RICO
I'd like you to send them a message, about a friend...Can you get it to them?

SLEAZE
Yes

RICO
(to himself,watching)
I'll see you dead

INT. ASPEN SHUTTLE - DAY

DREDD stares at the nasty faces around him. At the armed guards at both ends of the cabin.On their laps sit rifles the size of cannons. Then at the prisoner beside him. He realizes with surprise...it's Fergie.

DREDD AND FERGIE. Fergie glances at Dredd. Doesn't recognize him without his uniform and helmet.

FERGIE
What are you in for?

DREDD
Murder. But I'm innocent.

Fergie shrugs, uninterested.

FERGIE.
Yeah, me too.

Dredd shakes his head no.

DREDD
You broke parole. You deserved the sentence the law required.

Fergie stares at Dredd. Blinks. Then puts his hands over Dredd's face, leaving Dredd's jaw exposed, and parting his fingers at Dredd's eyes, like the visor slit in the Judges helmet. Fergie's eyes go wide.

CONTINUED:

FERGIE
You!

Fergie calls out to the First Guard, at the head of the compartment.

FERGIE
Hey, I'm not sitting next to this guy! He arrested me. That's cruel and unusual--

Dredd nonchalantly sends his forearm in an blurring arc. The back of his hand swiftly clips Fergie's jaw. Fergie's face snaps to the side.The other prisoners look round, they know he is an ex-Judge now, Dredd casually waves the guard away and looks back at his enemies.

DREDD
No trouble here.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

Hershey hurries down the corridor. Her face is taut; she's barely holding her emotions in check. Other Judges jostle one another as they pass. Hershey swings around the corner and...

COLLIDES with Judge Griffin. He grabs hold to steady her. Neither notices that Hershey's Birdie has been accidentally activated.

GRIFFIN
Excuse me, Judge. You okay?

HERSHEY
Sorry. My fault. I should have watched where I was going.

They look at one another a beat. Then Griffin tries a smile and prepares to continue on. Hershey stops him with her voice.

HERSHEY
You know what happened today was a miscarriage of justice.

GRIFFIN
Its tragic. We all admired him.

E.C.U. ON BIRDIE. Its monitor blinks True.

HERSHEY
Life in Aspen's mines is a slow death sentence. And I know he's innocent.

GRIFFIN
If there was anything I could have done, I would have. But the law is clear. Now, its best to put him behind us. Carry on, Judge Hershey.

With that, Griffin strides away. Hershey nods, letting the logic of his words sink in. Then a beeping noise begins to emanate from her waist.

Hershey looks down. Notices the Birdie is on. She glances at the monitor.

E.C.U. BIRDIE. The screen flashes FALSE.

Hershey stares at it, then realizes what its telling her. She frowns at Griffin's retreating figure.

CUT TO

EXT. CURSED EARTH - DAY

Dust blows across the dead landscape. The Prison Shuttle appears over the crest of a hill, moving toward us. It's rushing about ten feet above the surface, kicking up clouds of red sand in its wake.

THE GUARDS in their GUN NESTS hunker down, trying to avoid the elements. Their gaze sweeps the horizon. keeping vigil.

A BLUFF looms ahead. A massive wall of sheer rock, reaching across the horizon. Craggy canyons are carved in its face. The shuttle roars forward.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

DREDD AND FERGIE sit together, flanked by theives and killers. Fergie glances over at Dredd, whose facial muscles are strained tight. Eyes still staring into space. Fergie frowns.

DREDD
A major malfunction of justice has occured.

Fergie shrugs.

FERGIE
You're looking at it.

DREDD
I was refering to myself.

Dredd looks away. His mind is blown. He's just now grasping the enormity of what's happened to him.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
They convicted me. I'm innocent. Innocent people do not go to prison. It doesn't happen. Dredd and Fergie. Fergie speaks up.

FERGIE
If you're looking for sympathy, try one of the other guys.I get paroled this morning, okay? They send me to the shitiest block in the city. Ten minutes later all hell breaks loose. Everybody's trying to kill each other. I'm running like hell to to away, and what happens? Some *Judge* sends me to Aspen for eight years. Does that sound like justice to you?

Dredd just stares at him. He gets the point.On FERGIES face is a nasty wound where DREDD had hit him at the BLOCK WAR.

DREDD
No.

CUT TO

EXT. CURSED EARTH

The Shuttle moves closer to the bluff, heading into one of the canyons. CAMERA rises above the rocks, following it, as it moves into the narrow corridor. A FIGURE, his back toward us, appears on a LOW ROCK as the shuttle moves past. He's filthy. Unshaven. And armed to the fucking teeth. LINK, one of the ANGEL GANG.

CUT TO

THE SHUTTLE moves through the canyon. The walls are getting narrower. They rise far above the rocky floor.

ON THE GUARDS in the gun turrets. They scan the terrain. the pilot's voice crackles over their headsets.

PILOT
(filtered)
Stay alert.

SHUTTLE GUARD
Copy.

CONTINUED:

ON LINK dashing along a narrow path in the rocky wall. He keeps an eye on the shuttle, below and in front of him. He giggles. Signals to someone ahead.

ON ONE SIDE OF THE CANYON. Two gunmen wait. Grizzled. Unclean. Nasty looking. Their clothes have a wild west flair. But their weapons are evil next century battle rifles. PA and JUNIOR ANGEL.

OTHER SIDE OF THE CANYON. Pa Angel's third boy, MEAN MACHINE, hides among the rocks. He's huge. Insane looking. An electronic monitor has been surgically fitted to a dent in the side of his head. It has four behaviour settings: MEAN. SURLY. VICIOUS. And BRUTAL. None of them nice.

This is the ANGEL GANG. They smile with anticipation at the approaching shuttle.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE - PILOT'S CABIN

The PILOT guides the shuttlte through the earthen maze.
He glances at a monitor that lays out a map of the ground ahead.
Onboard sensors sweep the path, looking for trouble.
The readout gives him the clearance...

PILOT
Two meters. One...

CUT TO

INT. PRSIONER'S CABIN

TIGHT ON DREDD. Thinking. His mind reels from the implications of everything that's happened. He speaks to Fergie.

DREDD
I'm sworn to uphold the law. I can not allow injustice to go uncorrected. Not to a Judge. Not even to lowlife scum like yourself.

Fergie gives him a sarcastic look.

FERGIE
Gee thanks. Why don't have a chat with the guard. I'm sure we'll be out of here in no time.

CUT TO

EXT. CANYON

THE SHUTTLE moves toward a bend in the canyon's path.
PA ANGEL grins. hits the button on a small detonator. Suddenly...

THE CANYON WALL EXPLODES! Ten tons of rock CRASH down into the path in front of the shuttle.

THE SHUTTLE brakes. Trying to slow. . . .

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE

Dredd and Fergie jerk toward the rumble of crashing earth. Everyone is thrown forward in their restraints by the sudden jerk.

CUT TO

EXT. CANYON

THE ANGEL GANG opens fire!
THE SHUTTLE GUARDS start wildly shooting back.

The canyon THUNDERS with AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. Bullets tear into the walls. Pandemonium. The 1ST SHUTTLE GUARD screams into his headset.

1ST SHUTTLE GUARD
Where are they!? I can't see!

2ND SHUTTLE GUARD
All around. Keep firing.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE - PILOT'S CABIN

The Pilot wrenches the controls. Starts backing the shuttle up.

CUT TO

EXT. CANYON

ON THE SHUTTLE. Its engines ROAR as it lurches into reverse. The blast jets are kicking up clouds of dust and rock.

THE ANGEL GANG keeps firing.
THE 1ST GUARD is blown out of his turret. Then...

ANOTHER EXPLOSION. The path behind the shuttle is blocked as the wall disintegrates. The Angels have slammed both doors closed, trapping their quarry.

THE SHUTTLE roars as it is blown sideways by the shock wave.
It starts sliding up the side of the canyon wall!
It's blast jets are scouring teh rock face.

THE SHUTTLE skids. Slews onto its side. Hovering.

THE ANGELS keep firing. The rounds CHEW into the shuttle's skin.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE

DREDD AND FERGIE are thrown halfway out of their seats.
BULLETS tear through the windows and walls.
SLAM into the prisoners. The whole cabin is Swiss-cheesed.
Everyone is being torn to pieces. Fergie SCREAMS his head off!

CUT TO

EXT. CANYON

THE SHUTTLE still clings to the side of the wall..
It bounces as its jet blast tries to hold it steady.
THE ANGELS keep firing! the 2nd shuttle guard is torn to pieces.
THE SHUTTLE begins to slide toward the canyon floor, pulled down by its own weight. It crashes nose first. bounces. Then slews to a sideways halt.

THE ANGELS WHOOP for joy. Charge down toward dit. Still firing.

ON MEAN MACHINE. He reaches up and slams his palm against the device on his head. The lights jump. Begin flashing on BRUTAL.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE - PILOT'S CABIN

THE PILOT stares out through the cockpit glass. Desperately tries to unhook himself from his safety harness. Suddenly. THUD.

LINK jumps onto the shuttle's nose. He's inches away, on the other side of the glass. Grinning. He aims his weapon at the pilot. Pulls the trigger.

THE WINDSHIELD EXPLODES! Link's rifle tears the pilot to pieces!

CUT TO

INT. PRISONER'S CABIN

AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE continues to pour into the cabin. Everyone is screaming. Being torn to shreds. Debris rains down in chaos!

DREDD stares at the surrounding carnage in outrage.
FERGIE is hit on the head by a flying chunk of cabin wall.
Dredd whirls toward him. Fergie looks dead. Then...

The carnage abruptly ends. Silence. Dredd looks around. He seems to be the only one left alive. Suddenly...

MEAN MACHINE jams his head right through the cabin wall, about a foot away from Dredd. WRENCH!

DREDD jumps back.
MEAN MACHINE leers insanely.

MEAN MACHINE
You Dredd?

Mean Machine grabs Dredd by the front of his jumpsuit. Stares at the name tag. Grins maniacally.

MEAN MACHINE
Pleased to make your acquaintance.

With that, Mean Machine YANKS Dredd right out of the seat.
DREDD GRUNTS as the seat's restraints SPLINTER and BREAK.

MEAN MACHINE pulls Dredd out through the hole, widening it a little with Dredd's shoulders.

CUT TO

EXT. CANYON

Mean Machine throws Dredd to the canyon floor.
Dredd looks up, dazed.
The Angel Gang is gathered around him. leering down. Laughing.
PA ANGEL steps forward.

PA ANGEL
I don't believe we've had the pleasure, boy. We're the Angels. I'm Pa Angel.
(jerking his thumb around)
This here's Junior.

Junior sends his boot THUDDING into Dredd's Ribs. UGHH!

JUNIOR
Howdy.

PA ANGEL
That one's Link.

LINK
Bite me.

Link plants a swift kick into Dredd's head. THUMP! Dredd grunts in pain.

PA ANGEL
And that handsome thing there is Mean Machine. But I guess he already introduced himself.

MEAN MACHINE
Not formally, Pa.

Mean Machine stomps his foot onto Dredd's chest. Dredd bounces, the wind going out of him. Mean Machine turns to his Pa.

MEAN MACHINE
Ain't forgot my manners.

THE ANGELS giggle and snort.

PA ANGEL
Well, well. Judgie Dredd.
(to his sons)
He don't look like much do he?
(to Dredd)
What you gotta say for yourself, boy?

DREDD gets his breath back. Glares up at them.

DREDD
You are all under arrest.

That gets the gang hooting and snorting like crazy.

JUNIOR
Can I keep one of his ears?

PA ANGEL
Damn if I don't spoil you boys. Sure you can, Junior.

Junior kicks Dredd in the head, exposing his ear. He drops down beside him. Pulls out a HUGE KNIFE.

CONTINUED:

PA ANGEL
Not here.

Dredd's eyes go wide. Pa swings his rifle butt into Junior's face. SMACK. Junior goes flying. The others giggle. He looks to his father, hurt.

JUNIOR
Thank you, Pa.

PA ANGEL
Ain't safe. We'll take him somplace nice and quiet where we won't have to rush the whole business.
(smiles at Dredd)
You're in luck. I cleared my whole calender. We got nothing to do today but you.

ON THE ANGELS as they reach down and grab Dredd.

CUT TO

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Griffin stands before a SEALED VAULT in a secluded corner of the Chief Judge's office. He smiles down at the MEDALLION OF OFFICE which hangs on his chest. Places his thumb on a pad set into it. The is a low whir. Then FIVE DISKS half eject from the medallion's edge.

Griffin selects one. Places it in a slot on a panel beside the door. The panel lights up. Activated. Pops the disk back out. Griffin replaces it. Closes the Medallion. In the wall, we hear the sound of machinery moving. A Computer Voice speaks.

COMPUTER VOICE
Thank you, Chief Judge. Access is granted.

Griffin smiles.

GRIFFIN
You're very welcome.

THE SEALED VAULT unlocks. The outer doors slide into the wall revealing and elevator. Griffin steps inside.

IN THE ELEVATOR. Griffin turns toward teh elevator's panel. Thre is one button on it. he presses it. The doors slide closed with a WHOOSH. The elevator begins to descend.

CUT TO

INT. SUBTERRANEAN CORRIDOR

CLOSE ON DOORS opening. Griffin steps from the elevator. Strides down a short, antisepctic hallway toward another set of DOULBLE DOORS. Written in bold letters above them is the word APOLLO. As Griffin approaches, the doors automatically open, beckoning him in.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB

Dark. Griffin enters. Starts turning on switches. Ceiling lights flicker, then jump to life. The air filtering system activates with a whir. As the lights come on we see...

A SLEEK FUTURE TECH LABORATORY.
Banks of GENE SPLICING COMPUTERS are set between ACCELERATED GROWTH modules.
VIDEO MONITORS are mounted above them.
The Apollo Lab. Griffin's special project.

Dust covers everything. This place has been sealed for a while.

Griffin smiles. Approaches the HOUSEHOLD MAIN COMPUTER panel.

GRIFFIN
System check.

A computer voice answers him.

COMPUTER VOICE
One moment please.

THE COMPUTERS whir through their startup modes.
THE MONITORS flicker to life. Progam Icons appear, followed by rapid system analysis activity as the Apollo lab tests itself. In a second...

COMPUTER VOICE
All programs purged and virus free. System on line and functioning.

GRIFFIN
Thank you.

Suddenly we hear the sound of CLAPPING.
GRIFFIN turns toward it, startled.
RICO steps from the shadows at the back of the lab. He grins.

CONTINUED:

RICO
And they say you can never go home again.

Griffin frowns, wary and irked at Rico's presence.

GRIFFIN
How did you find this place?

Rico steps toward Griffin. Arches a brow..

RICO
I told you Miller and I had a lot of chats. He just couldn't keep a secret.

Rico glances around the lab.

RICO
So this is where it all began for me...

He faces one of the computer banks. Gently, mockingly caresses it.

RICO
Mother.

Rico turns back to Griffin.

RICO
Dad. Or one of them anyway. I like to think I take after you.

GRIFFIN
Very touching.

Rico smiles. Approaches Griffin.

RICO
You don't seem happy to see me.

GRIFFIN
Access to this lab is restricted. Don't forget that I'm Chief Judge. Legally, you don't even exist.

RICO
But I do, don't I? And frankly, I'm not happy being dead. I'd like you to bring me back to life.

GRIFFIN
It's not time, Rico.

CONTINUED:

RICO
Now.

GRIFFIN
Soon.

They stare at one another a beat. Rico shrugs.

GRIFFIN
You did fine work with Dredd. Think about him rotting in Aspen. That ought to cheer you up in the meantime.

Rico smiles.

RICO
He'll never reach Apsen. He's dead already.

Griffin scowls. He hates having his commands disobeyed.

GRIFFIN
That is not what I *wanted*.

Rico rises to anger as well.

RICO
The thought of him taking another breath depressed me. I told you I wanted him dead. I did your bidding. Then I did mine. We both win. So show a little gratitude. I expect to be repaid for my work.

Griffin hears the sound of a HEAVY FOOTSTEP behind him. He whirls. The ABC ROBOT is standing in the doorway. Griffin stares at it. Rico's unexpressed threat. Griffin turns back to Rico, calm.

GRIFFIN
You will be.

RICO
(calm)
I want my team back. I feel naked.

Griffin nods.

GRIFFIN
I'll order their release.

Rico smiles.

CONTINUED:

RICO
Thank you... Chief Judge.

Rico heads for the door. Pauses. Cheerfully glances around.

RICO
New brothers and sisters. Good. I could use some. The last one didn't work out at all.

CUT TO

INT. SHUTTLE - DAY

CAMERA GLIDES through the wreckage. Wind whistles through the holes punched through the fuselage. So many it looks like a star field. Bodies lie where they fell. CAMERA keeps moving unitl we reach...

FERGIE. slowly, painfully crawling along the debris strewn floor. Dried blood cakes his forehead. He reaches a large shell hole punched through the cabin wall. Starts crawling through it. Freezes.

A PAIR OF BOOTS ominously step in front of him. The barrel of a shotgun slides to his nose. Fergie looks up, terrified.

FERGIE'S POV. A silhouetted figure blots out the sun. He seems ten feet tall. His long coat flaps in the breeze. He looks like death itself.

CUT TO

EXT. ANGEL'S HIDEOUT - DAY

A dilapidated shack in the middle of a box canyon. A crazy quiltwork of splintered wood, stone, rocks, car parts, corrugated tin and whatever else the Angels scrounged from the desert.

CUT TO

INT. SHACK

CLOSE ON DREDD. A head BUTTS against his face , slamming him sideways. Dredd grunts.

THE GANG is gathered around him. Dredd's trussed to a chair. His hands bound with rope. He's bloody. half-beat to death. Mean Machine has just finished head butting him.

JUNIOR
Careful. I told you I want that ear.

MEAN MACHINE
He's got two.

Junior pulls out his knife. Dredd stares at the blade, inches from his face. Junior turns to his Pa.

JUNIOR
Can I have it now? Mean's just gonna ugly it up.

Pa Angel shakes his head no.

PA ANGEL
Not yet. He ain't heard everything I gotta say.

JUNIOR
(mutters, frustrated)
Damn.

Dredd stares with malice as Pa Angel approaches him.

PA ANGEL
Know why we're gonna cut you up and feed you to the sand rats, boy?

DREDD
Because you're low-life, shit eating, gutter-scum, Cursed Earth lawbreakers?

Pa Angel scowls, thinking. Mouths the sentence back to himself.

PA ANGEL
No... Least that ain't the only reason. We're bein' paid to. By another Judge. Ain't that somethin'? Old friend of yours, I believe.
(leans close)
Rico.

Dredd scowls with disdain.

RICO
Rico's dead.

Pa Angel laughs.

PA ANGEL
You got that backwards, boy. He's walking upright in Mega City right now. You're the one that's dead. He wanted you to know that.

CONTINUED:

CLOSE ON DREDD. His face goes red with rage. He can't believe it.

Pa Angel turns to his boys.

PA ANGEL
(to Mean Machine)
Okay, butt him again.
(then to Junior)
Then you can cut his ear off.

Mean Machine and Junior grin.
Dredd is about ready to explode.
Mean Machine leans close. Cocks his head for the blow. Let's loose.

Dredd whirls toward Mean at the last second. His mouth opens wide. His teeth clamp down on Mean's nose. CHOMP!

Mean SCREAMS. Dredd head butts him away.
Junior leaps at Dredd, his knife raised. Dredd kicks out at him.
Junior starts to fall. Dredd raises his arms toward the descending blade. it slices through his bonds.

Dredd jumps out of the way as Pa and Link raise their guns and BLAST Dredd's chair to bits! BLAM! BLAM!

DREDD grabs Mean's pistol and starts firing. All hell breaks loose. BOOM!

LINK gets centerpunched. He crashes agains the cabin wall.
PA ANGEL takes aim at Dredd. Dredd rolls out of the way. But...
JUNIOR rises just as Pa lets go. BAM! BAM ! BAM! BAM!

PA ANGEL snarls as he blows his own boy to pieces.

PA ANGEL
Junior get out of the way!

Dredd rolls to his knees and rapid fires at PA. BOOM! BOOM!

Pa Angel flies against the stove like a rag doll. SMACK.

Dredd gets to his feet. Smoke and blood fill the room. He swings the pistol around hunting for Mean. Suddenly...

MEAN MACHINE dives at Dredd. They go flying. Right through the cabin wall. CRUNCH!

CUT TO

EXT. CABIN

DREDD AND MEAN go tumbling across the rocky ground. Dredd punches him. Once Twice. Mean doesn't seem to notice. He gets Dredd on his back. Kneels over him, snarling. Dredd aims up into his face.

DREDD
Resisting arrest is a crime. Cease and desist, lawbreaker.

Mean swats the pistol away. Dredd frowns.

DREDD
No leniency for you.

Dredd grabs a rock. Smashes it against Mean's head.
He crushes the DIAL. Big mistake. Mean goes totally fucking nuts!
With a ROAR he picks up Dredd and flings him against a boulder.

DREDD smacks against it with a THUD!
MEAN leaps on him. Starts batting Dredd around like a rag doll.
Dredd grunts and groans. He's getting the life beat from him.

DREDD
Assaulting a Judge is a further crime. things are only gonna get worse.

Mean grabs Dredd by the throat. Yanks him up. Pushes his face into Dredd's.

MEAN MACHINE
You killed my whole family! Now you die.

Mean Machine flings Dredd away.
Dredd crashes into the canyon wall. Slides down it. Looks up at the sound of a rifle bolt.

Mean stands over him. His assault rifle raised and ready.

MEAN MACHINE
Any last words, Judgie?

Dredd glares defiantly.

DREDD
Surrender.

MEAN MACHINE laughs. His finger tightens around the trigger. A SHOT ROARS OUT. BOOM!

CONTINUED:

Mean Machine gapes, amazed, at the HUGE RAGGED HOLE in its chest.

MEAN MACHINE
Well, fuck me. I'm a dead angel.

With that, he keels forward and hits the desert floor. SMACK.
Dredd stares down at him. Then turns as a long shadow falls over him. He squints up at the silhouette of a BIG MAN in a long duster and wide brimmed hat. The figure blocks out the sun. JUDGE FARGO.

DREDD
Fargo...?

Fargo grins.
Fergie stands in the background, limping toward them.

FARGO
Told you to watch your six, boy. There's always some sneaky--

Fergie suddenly cries out to Fargo.

FERGIE
Look out

BOOM! Fargo's duster flies as a bullet thuds into it from behind.
FARGO whirls around.
PA ANGEL, staggers in the doorway of THE shack, furiously reloading.
FARGO snarls. Levels his shotgun and pulls the trigger. BOOM! He blasts Pa into the next world.

Fargo angrily looks down at the blood on his coat.

FARGO
Shit.

Then he sinks to the ground.
Dredd scrambles toward the old man. Fergie too.

DREDD
No!

Dredd scoops Fargo in his arms, snaps his head toward Fergie.

DREDD
Let's get him inside.

CUT TO

INT. ANGEL'S SHACK - NIGHT

Fargo lays on a pile of matting near the fireplace. He looks bad. Dredd sits beside him. Fergie watches from the corner. Dredd has dressed the wound as best he can, but blood still seeps from the hole.

FARGO
I'm dying, ain't I, boy?

DREDD
Yes, old man.

Fargo takes that in with a sour nod.

FARGO
Should have taken my own goddamned advice.

DREDD
Try not to talk.

FARGO
Why? Afraid its gonna ruin my good health?

He stares self-reproachfully into Dredd's eyes.

FARGO
Fact is, I got a lot to say. I'm sorry as hell about this fix you're in, boy. Worst of it is, I helped put you there.

Dredd peers at Fargo, confused.

DREDD
You...?

Fargo summons his courage and begins.

FARGO
I wanted to tell you 'fore I left, but I couldn't. Boy, I... I ain't exactly been honest with you all your life. I didn't find you in the street, an orphan baby, like I said. You were... kind of an experiment.

Fergie speaks up.

FERGIE
Frankly, I've had my suspicions all along.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DREDD
Shut up.

Fergie ducks away. Fargo goes on.

FARGO
Griffin had this idea he wanted to try. To create the perfect Judge. If we could genetically breed the color of a persons eyes or hair, why not honesty, integrity and courage? Save a lot of guess work screening recruits for the Academy. Called it the Apollo program. He was on fire about it. Kept pestering me until I gave in. Said he wanted to use me as the base material. Build on it. Guess I felt flattered. Damn ego of mine....

Fargo stares into Dredd's eyes.

FARGO
But Griffin was right. You are perfect. The best Judge I ever met. I think you always sensed I looked on you like a son. In a way, that's what you are.

Dredd stares amazed.

DREDD
My parents weren't cut to pieces by lawbreakers gone futsie?

FARGO
Made it up.

Dredd is stunned.

DREDD
You made it up? But... that was why I decided to become a Judge. That's my whole life. How could you make up a story like that?

FARGO
Well, there was a lot of that going on back then. And we didn't want anyone treating you... different. Then Griffin did something real stupid. He made another one of you without telling me. Altered a gene or two so you'd both look different. But identical in every other way. Said he wanted a back-up in case anything happened to you. I didn't find out about it for years.

CONTINUED:

Dredd stares, trying to absorb all this.

DREDD
I have a brother?

FARGO
We sent you both to the Academy. You were the top pupils.

Fargo looks away, wracked with guilt.

FARGO
Even became best friends. Then... he started to change. Until he went bad altogether. Became the worst terror Mega City ever saw. You hunted him down and arrested him.

DREDD
Rico.

Fergie's eyes go wide as he listens.

FERGIE
Dredd and Rico are twins?

Dredd firmly shakes his head no, unwilling to accept it.

DREDD
No!

Fargo weakly nods.

FARGO
After that, Griffin wanted to cover the whole thing up. Buried the files. He was afraid what would happen to us if anyone found out we were responsible. I let him do it. It was my fault. And now this... I never wanted you to find out...

Fargo looks deeply into Dredd's stunned face.

FARGO
I'm sorry down to my toes, son. But its the truth. I love you, boy. Forgive me...

Fargo closes his eyes. The breath leaves his body and he dies. Dredd stares down at him, his world torn apart. Finally he roars in anger.

DREDD
My whole life is a lie. *What kind of love is that, old man!?*

Dredd storms from the room. Fergie tentatively calls after him.

FERGIE
Judge...?

But Dredd is gone.

CUT TO

EXT. ANGEL'S SHACK - NIGHT

Dredd stands under the star lit sky staring at the glow of light far off on the horizon. Mega City One. His face is a war of emotions. His footing on his identity shattered. Fergie approaches him.

FERGIE
Judge, you okay?

Dredd doesn't move. He's hisses at Fergie.

DREDD
Get away.

Fergie backs off. Sits on a rock. Keeping a concerned vigil.

LATER. Dredd hasn't moved a muscle. He looks shattered. Fergie wakes up. Shivers. Cold. Stares at Dredd with concern.

ON DREDD. Staring at the stars. A blanket falls across his shoulders. He slowly turns. Fergie is there. He looks into Fergie's eyes.

DREDD
It was all a lie. Everything I believed.

FERGIE
I guess so.

DREDD
Then who am I?

Fergie shrugs.

FERGIE
You're Judge Dredd.

CONTINUED:

Dredd slowly shakes his head, no.

DREDD
I don't know anymore.

FERGIE
You should sleep.

Dredd nods. But doesn't move. Fergie goes back to his rock. Stares at Dredd with worried compassion. Then closes his eyes.

CUT TO

EXT. ANGEL'S SHACK - DAWN

Fergie sleeps on his rock as before. Daylight washes over his stubbled face. The SOUND of POUNDING jolts him awake.

Dredd hammers a marker on Fargo's grave. He now wears Fargo's duster and hat. Fergie quietly approaches.

FERGIE
Feeling better??

Dredd stares down at the grave. No reply.

FERGIE
What are we gonna do now?

Dredd turns and squints toward the shimmering spot in the distance that is Mega City. His face is determined. Then he hefts Fargo's scattergun and the BOOK OF LAW.

DREDD
Find Rico. And set things right.

DANNY CANNON HAS WORKED ON AND READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES 73-113 WITH WILLIAM WISHER.

October 4, 1993

CONTINUED:

Dredd slowly shakes his head, no.

DREDD
I don't know anymore.

FERGIE
You should sleep.

Dredd nods. But doesn't move. Fergie goes back to his rock. Stares at Dredd with worry and compassion. Then closes his eyes.

CUT TO

EXT. ANGEL'S SHACK - DAWN

Fergie sleeps on his rock as before. Daylight washes over his stubbled face. The SOUND of POUNDING jolts him awake.

Dredd hammers a marker on Fargo's grave. He now wears Fargo's duster and hat. Fergie quietly approaches.

FERGIE
What are we gonna do now?

Dredd turns and squints toward the horizon. The morning sun reflects off of a shimmering dot in the distance. Mega City. Dredd hefts Fargo's SCATTERGUN and the BOOK OF LAW. His face is determined.

DREDD
Find Rico.

CUT TO

CONT FROM PG 74

EXT. MEGA CITY - ISO CUBES - DAY

A towering megastructure. Foreboding. Orwellian. Nasty. Surrounded by concentric circles of high walls. Interlacing networks of camera driven autoguns scan the perimeter. Armed Judges guard the entrances. This is not a place you ever want to be.

CUT TO

INT. ISO CUBES - CORRIDOR

Bright light glares off the stark corridor walls. Cameras constantly scan the hall. Two Judges, REDHOLTZ and BRANDT lead a heavily armed SECURITY TEAM down the hall . Redholtz carries an electronic document file. Brandt is shaking his head, unhappy.

CONTINUED:

BRANDT
You sure this is legal?

REDHOLTZ
It comes directly from the Chief Judge's office. Immediate action. Griffin ordered it himself.

Brandt shakes his head.

BRANDT
All six of them. At once. Unbelievable.

They march toward doors that lead to the MAXIMUM SECURITY wing.

CUT TO

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY

A cell block. Air tight sealed doors run its length. Brandt, Redholtz and the guards stand abreast of six facing doors in the center. They simultaneously unlock and open. KACHUNK. WHOOSH.

REDHOLTZ
Prisoners out.

Six men step into the corridor. The guards level their weapons. The prisoners glance around. They are hardly cowed. Their names are stencilled large on their prison jumpsuits. HAWKEN, RUGER, WALTHER, GRENDEL, RAVEN, BERSA. All are fierce, hardened specimens. Shackles on their hands and feet. They check one another out.

HAWKEN
What's shakin'?

GRENDEL
Probably gonna shoot us.

RAVEN
Fuck 'em.

Brandt snarls.

BRANDT
Shut up.

HAWKEN
Blow me.

Brandt goes red. Redholtz takes charge.

CONTINUED:

REDHOLTZ
Move out. Now.

Redholtz and the guards march the six men down the hall.

CUT TO

INT. ISO CUBES - TRANSFER DOCK

Brandt, Redholtz and the guards march the prisoners toward a door at the far end of a corridor in the transfer section. As they approach, the door opens, revealing the dark interior of a SHUTTLE VAN. The guards flank the door, herding the prisoners forward. Walther mutters.

WALTHER
Yep. Looks like a drive-to gun party.

BRANDT
Get in.

The six men file inside. Hawken goes in last. Turns to the guards. Grins.

HAWKEN
See you in hell.

The door closes. SLAM.

IN THE VAN. The engine roars. The men lurch as the van pulls out. Dim pinpoint lights show a spread of food and champagne laid out on a table between the built in benches. They gawk. The door at the head of the compartment opens. RICO steps through. Smiling.

RICO
Welcome back to the world.

The men stare in stunned amazement. Then grin.

RUGER
Goddamn... Rico!

Rico tosses them a set of keys. They start uncuffing themselves.

GRENDEL
We thought you were dead.

RICO
Still am. But not for long. I got Griffin to order your release and wipe the files clean.

CONTINUED:

Rico SMACKS a button on a wall panel. Two built in compartments beside him slide open revealing WEAPONS and GEAR. The six men smile.

RICO
We're back in business.

CUT TO

EXT. OUTSIDE THE GATES OF MEGA CITY - NIGHT

A huge fuel barge, eerily lit by navigation lights, moves toward us over the blasted landscape. It descends toward the ground as it approaches the gates of Mega City. It keeps coming until it looms right at us...

CLOSE ON DREDD AND FERGIE. They hunker in the dark landscape as the huge barge sweeps toward them, waiting to jump on. Dredd looks doubtful about the whole thing.

DREDD
You sure this is going to work?

FERGIE
I saw some people sneak through the gate like this the day I got paroled.

THE BARGE roars over their heads, a feet above them.
DREDD AND FERGIE leap up and grab onto the undercarriage.

ON THE BARGE. The roar is deafening. Dredd hauls himself up into the maze of piping. Fergie starts to slip. Dredd reaches out and grabs him as the barge glides under the gate into the lockout chamber. They scramble out of sight just as the closes behind them.

CUT TO

INT. LOCKOUT CHAMBER.

THE BARGE slows to a stop.
HI PRESSURE HOSES wash it clean.
DREDD AND FERGIE struggle to hold on against the powerful, churning spray. Dredd shouts into Fergie's ear, trying to be heard above the blast.

DREDD
How did they get past the guards?

Fergie thinks.

FERGIE
They uh...actually, they all got killed.

CONTINUED:

Dredd glares at him.
The jet spray shuts off. Quiet. Then footsteps...
The Border Judges start checking the barge.
Dredd and Fergie hold their breath.
One of the Border Judges moves toward Dredd. Peers up.
Dredd starts sweating.

THE BORDER JUDGE hesitates. Then moves on. Suddenly turns back. Pokes the barrel of his weapon into the dark recess. We hear a loud UGH!

FERGIE drops to the ground.
THE JUDGE whirls on him. His rifle right at Fergie's head. He shouts.

1ST BORDER JUDGE
Got a crawler!

FERGIE stares wide eyed into the rifle barrel. The Judge is about to fire.
DREDD drops down to the ground, the butt of his scattergun swinging like a bat. WHACK! He knocks the Border Judge off his feet.
All hell breaks loose.

MORE BORDER JUDGES rush forward. Weapons raised.
The wall mounted AUTOCANNONS swivel toward Dredd and Fergie.
DREDD whirls toward the Judges, his shotgun up and ready.
The Judges OPEN FIRE!
BULLETS slam into the wall behind Dredd and Fergie.
THE AUTOCANNONS are zeroing in.
Dredd hesitates. Fergie screams at him.

FERGIE
Do something. You've got the gun!

DREDD
Killing law enforcement officials is a serious crime!

Fergie screams at him.

FERGIE
Its okay. You're a criminal!

Dredd aims up at the belly of the barge. Fires into the maze of pipes.
KABOOM! The hydraulic system BURSTS. A wall of STEAM roars down, blocking Dredd and Fergie from the Judges.

But the autocannons still have an angle. The start firing. BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM! Dredd and Fergie roll, tumbling, across the ground as the rounds chew up the concrete.

CONTINUED:

FERGIE sees the DISPOSAL DOOR MANUAL ACCESS PANEL on the wall above him. He reaches up. Opens it. Punches in the access code he saw the Border Judge enter in the opening scene.

THE HUGE DISPOSAL DOORS in the center of the lockout chamber floor begins to slide open. Fergie grabs Dredd and pulls him toward it.

FERGIE
This way!

THE AUTOCANNONS chew up the ground at their feet as Dredd and Fergie dive into the opening.

CUT TO

INT. DISPOSAL CHAMBER

DREDD AND FERGIE sail a hundred feet down the wide open shaft. Slam onto a pile of debris. SMACK. They get up. Slide down the mound to the floor. Look around. They are in a vast tunnel. It stretches both directions into the darkness. A dim light beckons to them at one end.

DREDD
Come on.

Dredd pulls Fergie to his feet and they start moving toward it.

FERGIE
Come on? How about you saved my ass. Thank you?

DREDD
You're welcome.

Dredd strides away. Fergie frowns. Hurries after. Their footsteps CRUNCH on the floor. Dredd stops. He doesn't like the sound of that. He peers down. It's dark. Hard to see. Fergie glances around at the darkness.

FERGIE
Where the hell are we?

Dredd peers around too, thinking. He gets a bad feeling.

DREDD
How did you know about the door?

FERGIE
I saw 'em dump the bodies down it.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
Well, what happened to the them?

Suddenly, a huge KACHUNK echoes through the tunnel. Something big gearing up. Then a DEAFENING WHOOSH, as the roar of FLAMES ignite somewhere far behind them. They whirl around.

A FIREBALL glows at the back of the tunnel, lighting everything up. They see what their feet were crunching on. CHARRED BONES.

DREDD
We're in an incinerator!

Fergie's face goes white. Dredd's too. THE FIREBALL starts rolling toward them. Picking up speed. They whirl around, racing away from it.

DREDD
Move!

DREDD AND FERGIE run for their lives.
THE FIREBALL charges forward, a juggernaut consuming all in its path.
DREDD AND FERGIE can see the end of the tunnel ahead. And the lights of Mega City beyond. But the ball of flame is gaining ground.

AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. Dredd and Fergie leap into space just as the huge fireball roars past them. WHOOSH!

CUT TO

EXT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

DREDD AND FERGIE fall to a mountain of charred debris beneath the gaping end of the blast furnace tunnel. The fireball shoots out right behind them, roaring up into the night sky and vanishing.

ON DREDD. He emerges from the ashes and debris atop the mound. Takes a deep breath. The vast sprawl of Mega City is spread out before him. He looks around.

DREDD
Fergie?

Dredd hears a muffled SOUND from somewhere beneath him. He scoots over. Reaches down into the ashes up to his shoulder. Fishes. Then pulls his arm out. He's got Fergie by his hair. Fergie spits out a cloud of ash. Then sucks in air. Dredd frowns.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
Stop playing around.

With that, Dredd descends the mountain of ash. Fergie glowers after him. Then follows.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF RECORDS - NIGHT

The central records division for every citizen of Mega City. Hershey, in uniform, looking tired from a day on the streets, strides through the lobby, heading for the main desk. The CLERK looks up.

HERSHEY
I'd like you to pull a personnel file for me.

CLERK
What's the name?

HERSHEY
Judge Dredd.

The clerk punches up the request on his computer. Stares, puzzled.

CLERK
Sorry.

He turns the monitor towards her. The word RESTRICTED flashes on the menu screen.

HERSHEY
How old is the restriction?

The clerk types again. A date comes up.

CLERK
Five years.

Hershey frowns. Sees a notation at the bottom of the screen. A jumble of coded indexes.

HERSHEY
What's this mean? This coded stuff.

The Clerk swivels the monitor back. Reads. Frowns, unsure. Then enters the codes. Stares at the screen, interpreting.

CONTINUED:

CLERK
It's a cross-reference cue, tying Dredd's file to Rico's and sourcing both back to Judge Griffin.
(types some more)
There's another reference...

He turns the screen back toward her. Hershey stares.

CLERK
What's Apollo?

HERSHEY
I don't know.

CLERK
Well everything's sealed. For Griffin's eyes only.

Hershey stares at the Clerk's screen. Suspicious.
PULL BACK. We are watching Hershey on a SURVEILLANCE MONITOR. GRIFFIN eyes her video image with cold disapproval.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Dredd and Fergie move along the crowded street. They're drawing a few stares from passersby. Dredd glances back. The passersby either nod, or smile, then move on. Dredd looks uncomfortable. He turns to Fergie.

DREDD
People are looking at me.

FERGIE
No they're not.

DREDD
Right at my face.

Fergie shrugs.

FERGIE
That's what *people* do. You been a Judge too long. All they see is your badge. Or your gun. But they never look at *you*.

DREDD
Feels funny.

CONTINUED:

FERGIE
Don't worry about it. Just say, hi or something.

Someone else passes by. Glances at Dredd. He stares back. Hard.

DREDD
Hi.

The man quickly ducks away from Dredd's penetrating stare. Dredd looks to Fergie, perplexed and accusing. Fergie sighs.

FERGIE
Well, we'll work on it.

Suddenly, LOUDSPEAKERS blare. An authoritative VOICE echoes around the city, addressing the entire population.

VOICE
The Evening Curfew will commence in ten minutes. Violation carries a mandatory sentence of ten years. Return to your homes.

Dredd and Fergie listen in surprise as several passersby furtively hurry toward buildings.

FERGIE
What curfew?

Dredd scowls.

DREDD
Griffin.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Griffin sits at the center of the Council, looking peeved. The other Judges give him accusing looks.

MCGRUDER
I'm not so sure your directives are stabilizing the city. If anything it's making things worse.

Judge Silver speaks up.

SILVER
Everyone is protesting.

CONTINUED:

GRIFFIN
(unmoved)
Are they?

ESPISITO
I think we should reconsider the curfew.

Griffin glares at him. His voice is pure ice.

GRIFFIN
We'll win back their support... with respect. I'm declaring a State of Emergency. Total suspension of civil rights. If they don't love us, by god they'll obey us.

The council stares at Griffin, cowed. he climbs from his seat and moves toward the door, dismissing them as he goes.

GRIFFIN
Now, I have some very important business to attend to. If you can't manage this situation, perhaps I should look for Judges who will.

With that, Griffin storms from the chamber. The other Judges exchange concerned glances.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR

Griffin strides out the door. Judge Echs follows him out.

ECHS
May I have a word, Chief Judge?

GRIFFIN
No.

Echs follows him, determined to bring this out.

ECHS
Six prisoners were released from Iso Cube Max this morning. Supposedly on your orders. Now this is highly irregular and--

Griffin cuts Echs off in mid-sentence.

GRIFFIN
I'll look into it.

CONTINUED:

ECHS
Yes but--

Griffin glares at him.

GRIFFIN
Thank you. Good night.

With that, Griffin strides away. Hold on Judge Echs' concerned face. PULL BACK. They're being watched on a monitor. By RICO. He frowns. Reaches for the screen's power switch. Shuts it off. The screen goes BLACK.

CUT TO

EXT. ANOTHER STREET - NIGHT

DREDD AND FERGIE step around the corner. The sound of frightened SCREAMS are mixed with ANGRY PROTESTS. Crowds of citizens are moving across a wide avenue, clogging it solid.

A JUDGE SQUAD, on Lawmasters, attempts to herd them away, brutally knocking individuals aside if they're not moving fast enough, arresting others who resist.

FERGIE AND DREDD stand on the sidewalk staring in amazement at the mayhem. People dart past, terrified. Dredd frowns at the Judges. Mutters.

DREDD
Total lawlessness.

Dredd grabs one of the fleeing passersby.

DREDD
What's happening here?

TERRIFIED MAN
There's a march against the new restrictions.
The Judges are arresting everyone on the street.

With that, the terrified man darts away. Fergie turns to Dredd.

FERGIE
You heard what he said, lets get out of here.

A JUDGE ON A LAWMASTER skids to a halt in front of them. Dredd manages to side step the bike. But Fergie stumbles. Tries to get to his feet. The Judge shouts at him.

CONTINUED:

JUDGE
Halt, Lawbreaker!

Fergie desperately tries to scramble away. The Judge pulls out his baton and swings at him. THUD. Fergie goes down.

DREDD rushes over, stepping between Fergie and the Judge. The Judge angrily shouts at Dredd.

JUDGE
Stand back, citizen.

Dredd helps Fergie to his feet. He glares at the Judge.

DREDD
You had no right to strike him.

JUDGE
Do you have a problem, citizen?

Fergie sees that Dredd is about to step into serious shit. He tugs at him, trying to pull him away.

FERGIE
It's okay. Sorry. My fault. Let's go.

Dredd glares at the Judge a moment longer. Then gives in to Fergie's insistent tugs. They head off into the crowd.

CUT TO

CLOSE ON DREDD AND FERGIE, wending their way through the jammed street. Dredd is still fuming.

FERGIE
What the hell is wrong with you? You can't talk to a Judge like that.

DREDD
He abused his badge.

FERGIE
Happens everyday.

DREDD
I never saw anything like that.

FERGIE
Maybe things look different when you're standing on *this* side of a Judge's badge.

CONTINUED:

Dredd looks troubled by that one. Fergie's sees he's made his point.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB - NIGHT

Griffin strides through the doors. Freezes. RICO and the six members of his SPECIAL UNIT are already there. They are manning the computer consoles. Taking their own blood samples and feeding them into the Apollo Program Series Analyzers. The program is up and running. The men glance at Griffin with indifference.

Griffin stares aghast. He practically screams at Rico.

GRIFFIN
What in the hell do you think...

Then Griffin notices the ABC Robot at the end of the main lab platform. It holds a terrified JUDGE ECHS, by the throat, his feet dangle far above the floor. Griffin goes a little pale. This is not good.

RICO
Well, well, well. Look who wandered in.

Griffin tries to retrain some semblance of authority. He gestures to Echs.

GRIFFIN
Have you lost your mind? Tell that Goddamned thing to put Judge Echs down.

RICO
No.

GRIFFIN
That's an order, Rico.

RICO
He's a threat to me. You didn't cover your tracks very well. That's not my fault. Allowing him to wander around would be... imprudent. But then, you knew that.

Echs struggles the in the ABC Robot's vice grip. His face is turning blue.

GRIFFIN
He's a member of the *Council* for Christ's sake.

RICO
He's a problem.

CONTINUED:

Rico turns to the ABC.

RICO
Dump him.

Griffin stares in shock as the ABC turns at the edge of the platform and dangles Echs over the abyss. Echs' eyes go wide. He desperately struggles to hang onto the robot. He reaches up into the harness of cables at the ABC's neck. Grabs. But the cables SNAP. Sparks and fluids fly. The robot lurches, losing control. The pair cling to one another, teetering on the edge.

Rico rolls his eyes.

RICO
Geiger was right. Piece of junk.
(to the ABC)
Jump.

Echs screams as the robot obediently steps off the platform. The pair tumble into the abyss. Echs' scream fades until it is gone. Rico smiles.

RICO
Problem solved.

GRIFFIN
(a near whisper)
Oh my god...

Hawken takes in Griffin's shaken appearance. Grins.

HAWKEN
Shit, I think he's gonna cry.

The others laugh. Ruger shakes his head as he continues to donate his blood to the Apollo Analyzer.

RUGER
You were right, Rico. Guy like that's got no place in Apollo.

GRIFFIN
What are you doing with *my* program?

Rico stalks toward Griffin.

RICO
Improving it.

The six team members leisurely grab their weapons and and gather behind Rico. Griffin begins backing up to the rail as Rico moves toward him.

CONTINUED:

RICO
Which means, of course, your services will no longer be required.

GRIFFIN
Don't...

RICO
You had vision, Griffin. None of this would be possible without you. I think a nice statue...
(thinks)
...well, perhaps a plaque, would be in order. I'll see to it, when I'm sitting in the Chief Judge's chair.

They are face to face. Outrage and disbelief fills Griffin's face.

GRIFFIN
I gave you life. Brought you back here to be at my side. I've done everything for you.

RICO
Thanks.

He rips the Chief Judge's Seal from around Griffin's neck. Turns and starts walking toward his men. As he passes Hawken, he gives him a reminder.

RICO
Thumb.

Hawken nods. Draws a huge MACHETE from his boot. Griffin gapes at the six armed men. He reflexively holds out a hand to ward them off.

THE TEAM opens fire, unleashing a MURDEROUS HAIL OF LEAD! Bullets RIP and TEAR into Griffin, chewing him to pieces. He bounces against the rail like a rag doll on a live wire. The ROAR of automatic weapons is DEAFENING.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OUTSIDE GRIFFINS OFFICE - NIGHT

Empty at this hour. Hershey strides toward the door of the Chief Judge's Chambers. Speaks into the Household computer's panel.

HERSHEY
Judge Hershey to see Chief Judge Griffin.

CONTINUED:

COMPUTER VOICE
The Chief Judge is not available.

Hershey thinks.

HERSHEY
This is official business. Emergency override.

COMPUTER VOICE
I'm afraid I can't do that. Good night.

The panel goes dark as it shuts itself off. Hershey frowns. Looks around. No one in sight. Draws her Lawgiver. Aims at the lock. BLAM! The panel EXPLODES. Hershey opens the door. Slips inside.

CUT TO

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE

Hershey looks around. No Griffin. Sees his desk, near the balcony. His computer is still on. Beyond it, Hershey takes in the unlocked elevator entrance. She moves toward it, Lawgiver drawn. No one there. She turns back to the desk. Glances at the computer screen.

ON THE SCREEN. The menu for the Apollo Program, the last thing Griffin opened before he descended to the lab.

HERSHEY takes a seat at Griffin's desk, intrigued. Starts scrolling through the program.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET NIGHT

Dredd strides down the dark lane. Fergie hurries to keep up with him. He keeps looking around, nervous.

FERGIE
Rico could be anywhere. We can't just walk around like we own the place. You're a hot commodity. There's a curfew. *Damn it, you're not thinking like a criminal.*

DREDD
(affronted)
I'm not a criminal.

Fergie looses his temper, exasperated.

CONTINUED:

FERGIE
Nobody else knows that!
(glances around, furtive)
Look, I got you into the city. That's what I said I'd do. Maybe you oughtta take down Rico on your own. I'd just be in the way. So good luck, Judge

Fergie starts to scamper away. Dredd grabs him by the collar, Spins him around. Gets in his face.

DREDD
Your case is still under review. You try to skip out on me, I'll make an instant determination. Got it?

Fergie gulps. Eyes wide.

FERGIE
Got it. I'm totally committed to this Rico thing.

Dredd lets Fergie go. Fergie gathers himself together.

FERGIE
We still need a plan. Someone on the inside.

Dredd thinks.

DREDD
There's a cadet at the Academy. Crawford. He might give us some assistance.

Fergie feigns enthusiasm.

FERGIE
See. That's almost a plan. I'm excited now.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB

Rico sits before a console beneath a bank of surveillance monitors. His team is gathered around him. Rico holds the Chief Judge's medallion. Hawken hands him something small. Griffin's thumb.

HAWKEN
Here you go, Chief.

Rico takes the thumb. Blows the dirt and dust off of it. Presses it on one of the thumb pads on the medallion. It lights up.

CONTINUED:

RICO
One small step for man...

Rico tosses thumb away. Presses his own thumb on the other pad.

RICO
One giant leap for mankind.

THE MEDALLION emits an electronic beep. Then the interior DISKS eject. Rico quickly thumbprints them all. Then spins back to the console's control panel. Hits some commands.

PORTS automatically RISE in the console's surface. Whir open.
RICO inserts the disks.
THE COMPUTER reads them. Then kicks them back out.

RICO
And Mega City opens for me like the legs of willing girl.

THE COMPUTER processes the information. Then all the screens roll over. Menu's appear, listing every function and diagram of the city. The screen above Rico lists the chain of Command. It carries him as the new Chief Judge. The computer speaks.

CENTRAL COMPUTER
Mega City One is at your disposal. How may I assist you?

Rico smiles. Turns to his team.

RICO
Start making a list of things to do. And get the Council on a secure line. We're gonna make this official.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB - LATER

ON THE MONITORS. Judge's McGruder, Espisito, and Silver are gathered together on the dais in the Council Chambers. Their expressions are fierce with outrage.

RICO smiles up at them. McGruder speaks.

MCGRUDER
Where's Griffin?

CONTINUED:

RICO
He retired. Let me assure you I have taken complete control of the city.

INTERCUT TO

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

McGruder, Silver, and Espisito stare at Rico's face on the huge monitor before them. They exchange worried glances. Silver speaks.

SILVER
If that's so, what do you need us for?

RICO
I like to sleep at night. And I don't intend to spend my days looking over my shoulder. I want you to make it official. A unanimous vote to elect me as Chief Judge.

The judges look at one another. Espisito speaks quietly.

ESPISITO
He's bluffing.

INTERCUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB

Rico and the team at the console. Rico frowns.

RICO
Really? Don't go away.
(to Ruger)
Punch up the menu.

Ruger hits some commands on a LAPTOP keyboard wired into the mainframe. The screens starts listing PRIMARY CITY DEPARTMENTS.

RICO scans the list.

RICO
Now let's see, what's in the A's? Airport? No. Could come in handy. Air Filtration System. Gonna need that. Aha...
(he grins)
The Academy of Law. We're gonna be growing our own so...
(to Ruger)
What kind of air traffic do we have in that sector?

CONTINUED:

RUGER types in some commands.
ON THE SCREEN we see a list Among the items, FUEL BARGE...

CUT TO

EXT. ACADEMY - NIGHT

DREDD AND FERGIE approach the Academy down the dark, empty street. The Academy of Law looms above them, rising high into the sky. Dredd stares at it. Then his expression changes as he sees...

A FUEL BARGE drifting toward the top of the structure. It picks up speed. Heading right for the Academy.

CRASH! The barge smashes into the top floors. KABOOM. Glass and metal flies in all directions as a huge FIREBALL roars up into the night sky. Debris begins to rain down.

CLOSE ON ACADEMY'S DOORS. Cadets pour from the building. Alarms are going off. Citizens are streaming into the street to see what's going on. The EXPLOSIONS continue as the building begins to burn. Total CHAOS.

TIGHT ON CRAWFORD, running into the street. A few of his friends are with him. He gazes back up at the Academy, stunned, and confused. Suddenly...

A HAND garbs his shoulder from behind. Crawford turns. Stares into the face of...

CRAWFORD
Dredd...?

CUT TO

EXT. UNDERPASS BESIDE THE ACADEMY

The Academy continues to burn and explode in the background. Dredd, Fergie, Crawford, and half a dozen of his friends are gathered there. They watch their Academy die in shocked amazement.

CRAWFORD
What happened?

DREDD
Rico.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB

The Academy's destruction is punched up on one of the screens. Rico gazes at the Council member's stunned faces.

SILVER
My god...

RICO
Shall I go on?
(to Ruger)
What's in the B's?

McGruder stops him.

MCGRUDER
No.

Rico smiles.

RICO
Good. I want you to clear the building. We'll be there in five minutes. Have some champagne waiting. And smile. I may just let you keep your jobs.

ON THE MONITORS. Silver protests to McGruder.

SILVER
You can't! He's a monster.

MCGRUDER
We have no choice.

She turns to face Rico.

MCGRUDER
Very well. We'll be waiting.

Rico punches the keyboard, ending the transmission. The monitor goes blank. He turns to Hawken, who holds an electronic notepad.

RICO
Put Silver on the list. Let's go.

CUT TO

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

Dredd, Fergie, and the cadets. Judges and rescue units are gathering in the street nearby. Our group stays out of sight.

DREDD
Rico's taken over the city. He must be somewhere in the hall of Justice.

Dredd gets to his feet. Fergie and the others look at him.

CRAWFORD
What are you going to do?

DREDD
Go there. And take it back.

Crawford looks at his fellow cadets. They all nod to him, a silent vote. Then Crawford turns back to Dredd.

CRAWFORD
Let us come with you.

Dredd stares into the frightened, but determined young faces around him.

DREDD
You're not even Judges yet.

CRAWFORD
Looks like we're graduating a little early.

Dredd is moved. He nods. Fergie nervously watches the Judges and rescue vehicles gathering at the Academy.

FERGIE
I don't want to spoil the party, but I'd like to point out that if we don't get off the street right now, we're aren't going anywhere. Every judge in the city is still looking for you.

Dredd frowns.

DREDD
What do you suggest?

FERGIE
Let's take the subway.

CUT TO

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE

Hershey stares at the computer. She looks amazed.

HERSHEY
(to herself)
My god... he's going to clone his own army.

Suddenly, she whirls at the SOUND of the ELEVATOR rising behind her. Hershey gets up from the desk. Draws her Lawgiver and dashes to the Balcony. She stays out of sight, listening.

THE ELEVATOR opens. Rico and his team step out, armed to the teeth. Stride through the office toward the corridor.

HERSHEY peers around the edge of the balcony, gun up. Her eyes go wide as she recognizes Rico. But there are too many of them to take on.

CUT TO

INT. CORRIDOR

Rico steps into the corridor. Scans its length. no one in sight. The team moves out. He turns to Ruger.

RICO
Give me the list.

Ruger shifts his assault rifle. Reaches around his equipment harness. It's not there. He grimaces. the others roll their eyes.

RUGER
Forgot it.

Rico stares at him, displeased.

RICO
Forgot it? Go get it. Meet us in the Chambers.

Ruger turns and heads back to Griffin's office.

CUT TO

INT. GRIFFIN'S OFFICE

Ruger steps in the door. Freezes. Sees...
Hershey standing near the elevator. She turns, surprised.
They both gape. Draw their weapons. Fire at the same time!

CUT TO

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

The academy continues to burn in the background. Dredd, Fergie, and the cadets lift a sewer cover in the underpass. Fergie stares into the blackness.

FERGIE
The sewers run all across the city. Take you anywhere you want to go. Me and my gang used to use them all the time.

Dredd looks at him doubtfully.

DREDD
You had a gang?

FERGIE
(defensive)
A little one. Sort of.

Dredd frowns. Picks Fergie up and tosses him down the hole.

DREDD
Then you go first.

Fergie disappears into the darkness. Screaming. Dredd nods to the cadets. they begin dropping into the sewer one by one. Crawford turns to Dredd.

CRAWFORD
Wait for me. I'll be right back.

Before Dredd can stop him, Crawford dashes up to the street and into the Academy.

CUT TO

INT. ACADEMY - HALL OF HEROES

ALARMS BLARE as Crawford rushes through the smoke filled hall. He rushes past cadets stumbling toward the exits. Hurries along the wall of crypts. Finds one. Wipes the smudge away from the nameplate.

CUT TO

INT. SEWER - NIGHT

Dredd and the others are gathered on the floor of the vast sewer. It's a huge man made cavern. Stretching for miles. Fergie peers into the darkness. Thinking. Points.

CONTINUED:

FERGIE
The Hall of Justice should be that way. And a couple of right turns.

DREDD
You want to be a little more specific?

Fergie frowns, defensive.

FERGIE
I know this place like the back of my hand.

Cadet Crawford drops down to the ground behind them. They turn.

DREDD
Let's go.

Crawford interrupts him. Offers a bundle toward Dredd.

CRAWFORD
Not yet. We're following a Judge. I figure he should look the part.

Dredd takes the bundle. Stares in surprise. It's his uniform, badge and Lawgiver. Dredd is beyond words. He looks at the young faces, beaming around him. Even Fergie seems touched by the moment.

CRAWFORD
Welcome back, Judge Dredd. Put it on.

CUT TO

CLOSE ON BOOTS. They come to a stop. PAN UP. An immaculate Judge's uniform. LAWGIVER in it's holster. BADGE on the chest. It reads DREDD. Dredd peers out of his helmet.

The cadets and Fergie are gathered behind him. They are all staring at...

THE APOLLO LAB. It sits on a platform suspended over a vast abyss that seems to go to the center of the earth. A walkway connects it to a side channel of the sewer.

FERGIE
What is it?

DREDD
I think I know. Come on.

CUT TO

INT. APOLLO LAB

Dredd and the others stand in the center of it. Fergie gapes at the open elevator shaft that rises far above them. The cadets stare at the vast array of complex computers and equipment. The program is running. Dredd gazes at it all with distaste.

DREDD
This is where I was born. Rico too.

Suddenly... KACHUNK. The elevator activates. Starts descending toward them. All eyes turn to it.

CRAWFORD
Rico?

Dredd draws his Lawgiver. Barks to the others.

DREDD
Take cover.

The cadets and Fergie scatter. Dredd moves toward the descending elevator. It reaches the bottom of the shaft. KACHUNK. The door opens. Dredd raises his Lawgiver. Ready. Faces...

HERSHEY. Her Lawgiver is up and pointed too.
DREDD AND HERSHEY gape at one another. Lower their weapons.

HERSHEY
Dredd?! I thought you were dead.

DREDD
Not hardly.

She smiles at Dredd. Holsters her Lawgiver.

HERSHEY
Glad to hear it.

Hershey sees the cadets gathered behind him. Takes in their bruised appearance. Recognizes Crawford and Fergie.

HERSHEY
Crawford? What happened?

CRAWFORD
Rico blew up the Academy. We're all that's left.

Hershey looks ashen. Dredd eyes are slits of angry determination.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
Where is he?

HERSHEY
Upstairs. I took out one of his men on the way down. What's going on?

Dredd readies for battle.

DREDD
Rico's taken over the city. We're taking it back.

He steps toward the elevator.

DREDD
You coming?

CUT TO

INT. ELEVATOR

Dredd's band is packed inside the elevator as it rises above the Apollo lab. Hershey stares at Dredd.

HERSHEY
I found out about Apollo. And you and Rico. It was his DNA they found traces of on Hammond. Griffin set you up. That's all we need to clear you.

DREDD
Griffin paid for his crime. Now it's Rico's turn.

Hershey stares down as the lab slips away beneath their feet.

HERSHEY
He's going to use Apollo to build an army. Enslave the whole city.

Dredd draw his Lawgiver.

DREDD
No he's not.
(to the gun)
Grenade.

Dredd sticks his arm out of the elevator's open cage. Aims down. Fires. BOOM BOOM BOOM. The grenades fly to the Apollo Lab's floor. hold a beat. Then...

CONTINUED:

KAKAKABLAAAM! A series of explosions rock the lab as the grenades go off. The machinery is shredded. We see...
THE COMPUTERS being blasted to junk.
THE SERIES ANALYZERS, evaporated.
THE ACCELERATED GROWTH UNITS, ripped to nothing.
ANCILLARY EXPLOSIONS turn what remains into a FIREBALL.

ON DREDD. His eyes smile with satisfaction as the lab evaporates.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Rico stands before the dais. Hawken, Grendel and the rest of the team flank him, weapons raised. What's left of the Council is gathered before them. McGruder, Espisito, and Silver. They stare down at Rico, hostile.

RICO
Look at you. The Masters of Mega City. The Guardians of Justice. You had the self-righteous gall to sentence me to death. And here you are, at my mercy. You're hardly worth it.

Silver speaks up. His voice is uncowed.

SILVER
Perhaps if we'd resorted to terror and murder we'd be up to your standards.

Rico glares at him.

RICO
Perhaps.

Silver holds his tongue. Rico smiles.

RICO
This is the most supreme moment of my life. I want you to grant me the legitimacy that I have earned. The next few minutes will have an enormous impact on your careers. So pay attention. Offer me the Chief Judges chair.

The Council glowers at him. No one leaps to the request.

MCGRUDER
You've given us little choice.

CONTINUED:

RICO
That's correct. Take a vote.

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

the elevator reaches the floor. The doors open. Dredd, Hershey, Fergie, Crawford and the others stride out. The corridor is empty.

DREDD
Follow me.

Dredd strides down the hall. The others follow.

CUT TO

A WEAPONS LOCKER. Dredd shoots the lock off. BLAM. the door flies open. Various next century assault rifles are stacked inside. Dredd turns to the Cadets and Fergie.

DREDD
Raise your right hands.

They do.

DREDD
I deputize you in the name of law and justice.
(to Fergie)
In your case it's temporary.
(then back to them all)
Grab a gun.

The all reach into the locker.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

Dredd leads the armed band toward the Council Chambers. A monitor above it shows the session in Progress. We see Rico and his team inside. The Council too. Dredd frowns at Rico's image. Turns to the band.

DREDD
Let's go.

HERSHEY
I'm with you all the way.

CUT TO

INT. HALL OF JUSTICE - COUNCIL CHAMBER

ON THE COUNCIL. One by one they raise their hands.

RICO
Its unanimous.

He jauntily climbs the dais. Espisito, Silver, and McGruder shrink away from him, reviled. Rico drops into the Chief Judges chair and smiles, full of himself.

MCGRUDER
I'm not going to be a party to this farce.

She rises from her chair. Rico slams her back into it.

RICO
Yes, you will.

Rico nods to Grendel and Hawken and the others on his team. They aim their weapons at the members of the Council.

RICO
My first official act will be to try you for attempting for your crimes against me. I find you all guilty. The sentence is death. To be carried out immediately.

McGruder goes pale. The other council members too. Rico nods to Grendel.

RICO
Shoot them.

The Council gasps. Grendel smiles. The team raises their weapons. Suddenly...

CRASH! The doors on all three sides of the chamber are SMASHED OPEN! The cadets pour inside, armed to the teeth. Hershey stands at the head of one group. Fergie another. And through the third doorway...

DREDD strides into the chamber. Glares at Rico.

DREDD
Rico! In the name of law and order I'm placing you under arrest.

RICO roars in outrage. He rises from the chair. Draws his Lawgiver.

CONTINUED:

RICO
Dredd!

Rico fires!. BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. Ferocious EXPLODING ROUNDS blast into the wall behind Dredd.

Then... ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
Hawken fires into the cadets. BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA.
Some of them go down. The rest fire back as they take cover.
HERSHEY sends a whole magazine of bullets into Hawken.
He crumples to the floor. The cadets swarm through the room.
GRENDAL stares at rifle barrels pointed right at him. Boom! They go off.

RAVEN WALTHER AND BERSA open fire. It's total chaos.
THE COUNCIL takes cover. Bullets are flying everywhere. The whole chamber is being chewed up.
SILVER takes a slug in the arm.
FERGIE takes one too. He goes down.
DREDD snarls. Levels his lawgiver at Walther. BOOM. Walther is mist.
RAVEN AND BERSA go down next. Smoke fills the room.

RICO sees his team evaporate. He's on his own. He spins and aims his Lawgiver at the wall behind him. Screams at the selector.

RICO
Hi-explosive!

Fires! KABLAM! A NEW DOOR is blasted into the wall. Rico dives through it.

DREDD charges across the room after him. At the ragged door he turns back to Hershey.

DREDD
Stay here and protect the council. I'm going after him.

Hershey nods. Dredd ducks through the hole. Crawford follows after.

CUT TO

INT. CORRIDOR

RICO races through the hall, heading for a stair well. He throws the door open and charges down.

DREDD makes it to the door a few seconds later. Kicks it open and heads after him.

CONTINUED:

INT. STAIR WELL

RICO bounds down the stairs. Charges past the next landing. Keeps going. Behind him he hears the SOUND of DREDD'S BOOTS following like a curse. Rico pauses. Aims back up the stair well. Fires another GRENADE CHARGE.

ON DREDD, as the GRENADE EXPLODES! He flies back. Debris and smoke fills the air. Dredd gets to his feet. Keeps going.

ON CRAWFORD. He sees Dredd charge up the stairwell. Realizes where Rico is heading.

CRAWFORD
The garage.

Crawford spins and races toward an elevator nearby.

CUT TO

INT. GARAGE LEVEL

Rico races in. Charges toward a row of Lawmasters parked at the ready line. He jumps onto one. Starts the engine. Revs it. Races toward the exit.

AT THE EXIT. Rico skids to a halt before the exit ramp. Standing on it is...

CRAWFORD, twenty yards away. He has his assault rifle aimed right at Rico.

CRAWFORD
Rico! You're under arrest.

Rico laughs.

RICO
The bolt's locked back. You're empty.

Crawford checks. Oops. He's taken aback. Scared for a second.

RICO
Get out of the way. You've got nothing.

Crawford stares at Rico. Then he fills with steely resolve. Thrusts his arm out, palm facing Rico--a stop sign.

CRAWFORD
I've got the law. Give up.

CONTINUED:

Rico shakes his head. Revs the Lawmaster. Drops the clutch. Aims right at Crawford. SMACK!

Crawford tumbles over the top of the bike. Rico elbows the flying body past him. Crawford desperately reaches toward a panel on the rear of the Lawmaster as he hurtles over it. He SMACKS the ground. Lays there. Rico roars away.

DREDD runs up to Crawford as Rico disappears into the city. Dredd kneels. Holds him in his arms. Gazes down in anguish. The boy is dying.

DREDD
Why?

CRAWFORD
(a croak)
I armed his beacon. Go get him Judge.

Crawford dies. Dredd gently sets him down. Glares out the exit ramp.

ON A LAWMASTER. Dredd jumps on. Revs the engine. Peels away.

CUT TO

EXT. MEGA CITY - HALL OF JUSTICE - NIGHT

WIDE ON THE ENORMOUS COMPLEX. The lights of Mega City are spread out below and above. We see Dredd race out of the garage and charge after Rico. He hurtles along an artery a thousand feet above the city floor.

CLOSE ON DREDD. The Lawmaster roars. He activates the onboard computer. Hits a few commands.

THE SCREEN shows a map of Mega City. A blinking dot moves along one of the roads. Rico.

DREDD makes a call.

DREDD
Hershey, this is Dredd. I've got Rico on the map. He's on Hillary Clinton highway, eighty first level. Heading north to Schwarzenneger block. Send a command team to cut him off.

CUT TO

INT. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The smoke has cleared. The Council of Judges are tending the wounded cadets. Hershey kneels over Fergie, pressing a bandage to his side. She speaks into a portable phone.

HERSHEY
Copy, Dredd. I'm on it.

She rings off. Turns back to Fergie, concerned. He motions her away.

FERGIE
Go. Go. I'm fine.

CUT TO

EXT. MEGA CITY - STREET - NIGHT

Dredd stares at the tracking screen as he powers the Lawmaster along. he sees Rico moving straight toward the roadblock. Dredd decides to take a shortcut. He makes a SKIDDING left turn. Roars away.

CUT TO

EXT. HRC HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Rico races along. Ahead, he sees the word SCHWARZENEGGER in bold letters atop the nearest block. Suddenly...

A WALL OF LIGHTS blast on. They run the entire width of the highway, a hundred yards in front him. A road block. Fifty Judges stand there aiming weapons. They open FIRE!

RICO skids the Lawmaster into a smoking right turn. Shoots down a side street as BULLETS chew up the pavement around him.

CUT TO

EXT. SIDE STREET - NIGHT

RICO roars through the turn. Straightens out. Suddenly...
DREDD shoots into the street behind him. Gaining ground.
RICO makes another turn. Dredd stays on his tail.

CUT TO

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Rico races into the lane. Ahead he sees a wall. DEAD END! But he doesn't slow. He revs the engine higher. Charges right at it. Hits a button. the Lawmaster's cannons jump to life. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE CANNON'S ROUNDS CHEW RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL, opening a doorway just as Rico roars through it, right into a building.

DREDD pulls into the lane behind him. Shoots into the building too. But the edge of the whole clips his head. Rips his helmet off. It clatters to the ground in his wake. Dredd winces. Keeps going.

CUT TO

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Dark. A vast place. Run down. The South Central of Mega City. It's been turned into a homeless encampment. A city within a city. Fires burn in trashcans, tents hold whole families. The down and out fill the walls.

RICO races through their midst. People dive out of the way.
DREDD charges right behind him.

RICO keeps going. Heads for the next wall. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
Shoots through that one. A beat later...
DREDD screams through the opening like a missile.

RICO looks back over his shoulder. Sees Dredd coming up behind him. Snarls. Keeps going. Sees another wall ahead. Races for it.

ON THE NEXT WALL. Rico closes in on it. Readies the Lawmaster's cannons. Fires again. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

THE SHELLS smack the wall. Dent it. But don't punch through.
RICO fires again. BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Still no go. The wall looms closer and closer. At the last second...

RICO skids to a halt. Slides right up to the wall. Looks over. Sees Dredd charging for him.
DREDD puts on the brakes too. His Lawmaster screams as it skids sideways...

RICO hits a button on the control panel. His Lawmaster suddenly jumps a foot above the ground. The wheels rotate and retract. It's a JUMPBIKE! Rico hits the throttle. His Lawmaster whines with a TURBO ROAR and shoots up the side of the wall.

ON DREDD skidding to a stop. He's already converting his bike. The wheels retract as the bike skids sideways. The jets blast on. The Lawmaster bottom's out. BOUNCES. Then stabilizes. And starts climbing after Rico.

ON RICO. He jumps up a few levels. Roars onto the top floor. Wheels come down. The bike bounces hard. Catches the floor. The wheels spin and he's of again.

CONTINUED:

DREDD hits the floor behind him. Sees Rico just ahead. He draws his Lawgiver. Aims at Rico's back.

Rico faces another wall. Hits the bike's cannons. He and Dredd fire at once.

ON RICO, DREDD, AND THE WALL. Rico's cannons and Dredd's Lawmaster tear into the wall. A few of Dredd's rounds SMACK into Rico's Bike. The rest pepper the wall. WHOOSH! Another doorway appears. Rico and Dredd race through it. Almost side be side.

CUT TO

EXT. BUILDING - ROOF

The pair charge out of the warehouse and BOUNCE onto the wide roof. A HUGE FUEL BARGE is drifting past the building, like a whale. Rico aims his bike for it. Revs the Lawmaster to Red line and charges right off the roof's edge.

RICO sails through the air...
DREDD charges for the tanker too. He fires a shot as his Lawmaster jumps into space...

ON RICO AND DREDD. Their Lawmaster's arc through the air. Rico's goes high. Dredd's goes low. Rico hits the top of the tanker. Skids.

DREDD isn't going to make it. He jumps off the bike just before it SMACKS into the side of the fuel barge.

RICO tries to control the bike's skid. Can't. It goes down. Sparks shoot off of it. Rico tumbles to the barge's skin. Rolls across the length of the huge thing. His helmet is ripped from his shoulders. His bike sails off the far side. Rico gets to his feet. Looks around. Smiles. Dredd didn't make it. Rico watches the two bikes tumble to the street, a thousand feet below.

ON DREDD. Beneath the tanker. He's desperately clinging to a boom, the umbilical that the barge off loads it's fuel from. Dredd starts hauling himself along it. Climbing toward the top of the barge.

CUT TO

ON THE BARGE'S TOP. Dredd hoists himself to the edge. Then pulls himself over the lip to the surface. Looks around. Sees Rico at the far end, looking down. Dredd gets to his feet. Draws his Lawgiver. Shouts.

DREDD
Over here!

Rico whirls back, amazed. Raises his Lawgiver too.

CONTINUED:

RICO
You're harder to kill than I thought.

DREDD
Impossible. Put down the gun.

They start walking toward one another over the wide roof. Shouting as they close in. Their eyes drill into each other's. This is personal.

RICO
You put it down. *Brother.*

DREDD
You're under arrest.

RICO
So are you.

DREDD
Drop your gun!

RICO
Shoot or shut up.

THEY BOTH FIRE simultaneously. BOOM-BOOM! The rounds tear into their uniform epaulets. They stagger. Neither seriously hit. They keep going. Until they are face to face. Guns aimed right at each other's heads.

The fuel barge keeps moving. We see the city floating past behind them. Rico snarls.

RICO
We can't miss at this range.

DREDD
Last chance. Give up.

RICO
You willing to die for what you believe in? Go ahead. Pull the trigger.

They both fire at the same time. And they also both smack the other's gun barrel away at the same time. BOOM-BOOM. Two misses. They both stumble back.

DREDD rolls up. Aims his Lawgiver. RICO'S boot kicks it away. THE LAWGIVER slides to the barge's edge and drops into the night.

CONTINUED:

Dredd leaps at Rico before Rico can take aim. They go tumbling. Right after the Lawgiver. They both sail into the air...

ON DREDD AND RICO. Punching as they fall. Then...

SMACK. They hit a STEEL MESH PLATFORM. Roll. Get to their feet and dive at one another. They are evenly matched, what the hell, they're clones.

Every punch Dredd throws, Rico has one to counter with. The two Judges are literally beating one another to death with the force of their blows. But where are they? Suddenly...

CAMERA RUSHES BACK. HELICOPTER WHIP PAN FROM TIGHT TO WIDE revealing DREDD and RICO...

ON THE TORCH of the STATUE OF LIBERTY.

CLOSE ON DREDD as RICO'S BOOT crashes into his face. POW! Dredd smacks against the torch's side. Rico aims his Lawgiver.

DREDD rolls out of the way just as he fires. KABOOM! The round CRASHES through the glass candle. Dredd ducks away.

RICO
Grenade.

RICO aims at it. Pulls the trigger. CLICK. Out of grenades. He stares the Lawgiver's selector.

Dredd DIVES at Rico! The two men go TUMBLING. The Lawgiver skitters across the platform's surface.

Rico desperately punches Dredd. Dredd falls back. Rico dives for the Lawgiver. Dredd throws his leg beneath Rico's feet. Rico SMACKS the grid. Dredd hauls him up.

DREDD
Resisting arrest is a very serious offense.

Dredd punches him. Hard. Rico slumps to the rail. Dredd lets go his grip. Then stalks over to retrieve the Lawgiver.

Rico pulls himself up on the rail. Grabs a hidden PISTOL from his uniform. Aims at Dredd's back. BLAM! The bullet bites into Dredd's shoulder. Dredd winces. Spins around, the Lawgiver aimed at Rico.

DREDD
Drop it. Or die.

CONTINUED:

Rico laughs. Aims his pistol for another shot.

RICO
Go ahead. Pull the trigger. Its matched to my DNA, stupid.

Then Rico suddenly realizes that its matched to Dredd's too.

RICO
Shit..!

RICO swiftly fires another shot. DREDD fires at the same instant.

Rico's shot hits DREDD'S BADGE! PING. Dredd's SLAMS into Rico's chest, hurling him against the rail. The old rail breaks. The section behind Rico tumbles away. Rico teeters there, his eyes wide with the knowledge of impending death. He tries to raise his pistol for another shot.

DREDD fires again. This Lawgiver's round punches Rico over the edge. He tumbles through the air, falling into the night. Dredd walks to the edge. Stares down.

RICO tumbles and spins as he falls toward the street far below. Suddenly...

LIGHTS RISE, like the hand of God behind Dredd. He turns. Stares into them, squinting. A blast of wind sweeps over the platform. Then...

HERSHEY appears between the lights. She reaches her hand out toward Dredd. She's standing on the open bed of a HOVER ASSAULT CRAFT.

HERSHEY
What are you waiting for?

Dredd smiles. Takes her hand. She pulls him aboard. Fergie is beside her. Bandaged. Along with more Judges.

Hershey notes Dredd's dented badge.

HERSHEY
Looks like you'll need a new one of those.

He looks down. Sees Rico's bullet crease. Nods.

HERSHEY
They're going to offer you the Chief Judge's badge. I think you should take it.

Dredd shakes his head no. Gazes out at the city sweeping past them.

CONTINUED:

DREDD
I wouldn't fit behind a desk. I like the street. It's where I belong.

THE JUMP SHIP roars toward the hall of Justice. It looms toward them. The lights of Mega City sparkle in the night.

FADE TO BLACK.